Right Decision Service newsletter: July 2025

Welcome to the July 2025 update from the RDS team

1.New RDS functionality

1.1 Archiving and version control

We are very pleased to advise that this long-awaited functionality was released on Tuesday 1st July. It enables versioned archives to be created for Toolkit, Content page, Listing page and Guideline page nodes, including parent and child nodes. The filtering functionality in the "Archiving" menu is not yet working and Tactuum hope to deploy the fix at the end of July. Please use the Editors' channel or contact his.decisionsupport@nhs.scot with any questions or issues.

1.2 RDS redesign, shared content editing functionality

 The new RDS redesigned search and browse functionality, and the extension of content sharing to enable editing of shared content is now being scheduled to go live at the end of August. We will advise on user acceptance testing opportunities and on the exact deployment date when confirmed.

1.3 Antimicrobial calculator user interface changes

A further change to wording has to be made which has set back the deployment date – now likely to be end of July. The intention is to release at the same time a number of security fixes and to address the problem of duplicate search results appearing on the mobile app when the app uses links to other RDS toolkits.

2. RDS access issues

A 10 minute loss of access to https://rightdecisions.scot.nhs.uk was noted on 24th June and on following up we heard that there had been similar but much shorter outages sporadically before that. Tactuum has identified that this is not a true outage but a problem with the software ('Application Gateway') used to direct the named URL to the correct Azure page. They plan to move to a different software – Azure Front Door – which testing has confirmed resolves this issue. This will also address the problem some editors have experienced when they are given permission to edit very large numbers of toolkits in the RDS content management system.   This deployment is planned for end of August.

3. Training

Google Analytics training via Teams webinar is scheduled for:

- Thurs 17th July 11am-12pm
- Monday 21st July: 2pm-3pm

Training for new editors via Teams webinar is available on the following dates:
Thursday 24th July 3.15 pm – 4.15 pm
Wednesday 30th July 12.15-1.15 pm

To book for these sessions, please contact Olivia.graham@nhs.scot

4. New user guides
Two new user guides are available in the [RDS Learning and support](#) area:

- Olivia has helpfully made available a set of [user guides](#) for Google Analytics.

- Jamie has also published a short note on [how RDS search works](#).

5. New RDS toolkits
Two new national RDS toolkits are ready for launch, just awaiting launch date from Scottish Government:

- **National Referral Protocol guidance** in collaboration with the Scottish Government Realistic Medicine Policy Unit. This protocol contributes to the Value Based Health and Care goals of creating a more sustainable health and care system by reducing potential harms associated with inappropriate interventions, reducing waste, and redirecting resources to higher-value care. The proposed protocol identifies a series of procedures where evidence suggests that there is less clinical benefit and as such, they must not be routinely offered by NHS Scotland.

- **National Cancer Referral** guidelines in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Delivery – updates of the guidance currently at https://www.cancerreferral.scot.nhs.uk/

We are also pleased to be progressing development of NHS Western Isles first guidelines toolkit, and a new self-assessment tool to help organisations to evaluate their maturity against different elements of the Quality Management system approach and to identify resources and opportunities for development.

6. Linkchecker update
We have received a report from Tactuum which evaluates three options for linkcheckers to overcome the limitations of the current Linktiger solution. Sitebulb Pro far exceeded the other candidates in its performance and looks to be a much better performing, efficient solution. We are just double-checking the testing results and hope to put a new solution in place during August.

7. RDS staff
Olivia Graham, our much-valued project support officer, who has been a mainstay of the Right Decision Service since its transition into Healthcare Improvement Scotland in November 2023, is moving to a new role in the SIGN team from beginning of August. She will be working on the digital pathways for new medicines project, which involves close collaboration across RDS, SIGN and the Scottish Medicines Consortium. So fortunately we will still be in regular communication.

I know many of you have communicated and worked with Olivia and I am sure you will want to join me in a huge thank you and very best wishes for her future.

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, or if you would prefer not to receive future newsletters, please contact his.decisionsupport@nhs.scot .

The Right Decision Service: the national decision support platform for Scotland's health and care
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