History of NHS Scotland Cards



1939

Emergency Hospital Service established

There are lots of injured people because of the bombing raids in the Second World War. To help deal with this, seven new hospitals open and new theatres and wards are built. Scotland is on its way to a free health service.

1913

Highlands and Islands Medical Service set up

People in the Highlands are very poor and have very little access to Health Care. The government pays grants to doctors to charge very little or nothing to the sick and poor. It is the first medical service of its time and is very successful.

1943

Start of the NHS in Scotland

5th July is the official birthday of the NHS across the UK, however it had been set up in Scotland in 1947.

1952

Prescription charges introduced

In 1952, the government introduced a charge for your prescription. It cost 1 shilling (5p).

1958

Ultrasound established

Glasgow produces the first working ultrasound scanners. These have been used since and have saved countless lives around the world.

1958

New vaccinations are introduced

In 1958, new vaccines for polio and diptheria are introduced.

1959

First nursing studies unit is set up

Edinburgh University opens the first nursing studies unit in 1959, making Scotland a world leader in nursing education and research.

1960

UK's first successful kidney transplant

Sir Michael Woodruff's team at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary perform the surgery on a 49-year-old man who was given a kidney from his twin.

1972

First CT scans used

Originally tested in London in 1971, Scotland uses CT scanners for the first time in Glasgow.

1930

MRI service starts

For the first time ever, MRI scans are used for medical purposes in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary by Dr Francis Smith.

1988

Sir James Black awarded Nobel Prize for Medicine

Fife-born James Black's two drug discoveries (for heart disease and stomach ulcers) are among the most important of the 20th century, saving countless lives around the world.

1993

Community Care and Mental Health rolled out

More support for people at home is introduced, instead of people having to live in hospitals and homes.

2001

NHS 24 opens

A new phone line is introduced, where people can get advice and medical attention when their doctor surgery is closed.

2007

Smoking ban introduced

From March 25th, people could no longer smoke in Scotland's bars, restaurants and all public enclosed places. The rest of the UK followed a few months later.

Now

NHS Scotland now

About 160,000 people work for NHS Scotland. There are 14 regional NHS boards, seven Special NHS boards and one public health body.