

Series HSC 2000/002
Issue Date: 11th February 2000
Review Date: 11th February 2003
Category: Public Health
Status: Action

sets out a specific action on the part of the recipient with a deadline where appropriate

The Management and Control of Hospital Infection

Action for the NHS for the Management and Control of Infection in Hospitals in England

For action by: Health Authorities (England) – Chief Executives
Special Health Authorities – Chief Executives
NHS Trusts – Chief Executives
NHS Trusts – Medical Directors
Primary Care Groups – Chief Executives
Regional Prescribing Leads

For information to: Regional Directors
Regional Directors of Public Health
Regional Directors of Research and Development
Regional Directors of Performance Management
Regional Directors of Nursing
Regional Epidemiologists
Health Authorities (England) – Directors of Public Health
Health Authorities (England) – Consultants in Communicable Disease Control
Health Authorities (England) – Directors of Nursing
Health Authorities (England) – Directors of Primary Care or equivalent
Health Authorities (England) – Pharmaceutical Advisers
NHS Trusts – Directors of Nursing
NHS Trusts – Chief Pharmacists
NHS Trusts – Chairs of Infection Control Committees
Standing Medical Advisory Committee
Public Health Laboratory Service
Medical Microbiologists
National Prescribing Centre
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The Management and Control of Hospital Infection

Action by the NHS for the Management and Control of Infection in Hospitals in England

Summary

This Health Service Circular sets out a programme of action for the NHS to:

- strengthen prevention and control of infection in hospital;
- secure appropriate health care services for patients with infection;
- improve surveillance of hospital infection;
- monitor and optimise antimicrobial prescribing.

It follows a recent analysis by Regional Epidemiologists, commissioned by the NHS Executive, of the management and control of infection in acute hospital Trusts and complements HSC 1999/049 "Resistance to Antibiotics and other Antimicrobial agents" and the Controls Assurance framework.

Action

- Health Authorities (HAs), Primary Care Groups (PCGs) and NHS Trusts should work together to implement the attached action programme, using the infection control standards in the Controls Assurance framework;
- NHS Trust Boards should formally review arrangements for the control of infection within hospitals for which they are responsible at least annually;
- Regional Directors of Public Health, working with Regional Directors of Performance Management, will ensure that the NHS has robust infection control arrangements (including the implementation of clinical governance arrangements and achievement of the Controls Assurance Standards) in accordance with the timetable set out in this Circular.

Strengthen prevention and control of communicable disease and infection control processes

Objective	Action	By whom and when
Secure appropriate arrangements for the control of hospital infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure senior management and Board level commitment 	Chief Executives of NHS Trusts By 1 April 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review service agreements on hospital infection control 	HAs, in collaboration with NHS Trusts By 1 st June 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure appropriate membership and functioning of Hospital Infection Control Committee 	Chief Executives of NHS Trusts By 1 st June 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure appropriate composition and functioning of Hospital Infection Control Team, including support staffing and resourcing 	Chief Executives of NHS Trusts By 1 st June 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that programmes for the control of infection are in place and working effectively 	Chief Executives with Infection Control Teams in NHS Trusts By 1 st April 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that appropriate infection control policies and procedures are in place, implemented and monitored 	Chief Executives with Infection Control Teams in NHS Trusts By 1 st April 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that education on infection control is included in induction and orientation programmes for health care staff 	Infection Control Teams in NHS Trusts By 1 st April 2001

Objective	Action	By whom and when
Improve quality of service provision through clinical audit and continuing professional development (CPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the infection control content of clinical audit and CPD programmes for NHS Trust staff, including the Infection Control Team. 	Chief Executives of NHS Trusts working with clinical governance leads and Infection Control Teams By 1 st June 2000
Secure a safe clinical environment through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high standards of hygiene and general cleanliness of the hospital environment consideration of infection control issues in service developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure appropriate contracts are in place and monitored Involve Infection Control Teams in service specification, including building works and purchase of equipment 	<p>Chief Executives of NHS Trusts working with Infection Control Teams By 1st April 2001</p> <p>Chief Executives of NHS Trusts working with Infection Control Teams By 1st June 2000</p>

Secure appropriate health care services for patients with infection

Objective	Action	By whom and when
Secure appropriate provision of isolation facilities within each Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake risk assessment to determine appropriate provision within the Trust and agree level and type of provision with Regional Office 	Chief Executives of NHS Trusts working with Infection Control Teams By 1 st June 2000

Improve surveillance

Objective	Action	By whom and when
Ensure that microbiology services meet the infection control and public health surveillance needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that appropriate and timely information is provided to the Infection Control Team. Ensure that laboratories report regularly to the 	<p>Chief Executives of NHS Trusts working with clinicians, providers of microbiology services and Infection Control Teams By 1st May 2000</p> <p>Chief Executives of NHS Trusts working with providers of microbiology services, Consultants in</p>

Objective	Action	By whom and when
	<p>relevant Consultant in Communicable Disease Control and Public Health Laboratory Service Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure appropriate staffing and IT support to undertake surveillance 	<p>Communicable Disease Control (CCDCs) and Regional Epidemiologists By 1st April 2000</p> <p>Chief Executives of NHS Trusts working with Infection Control Teams By 1st June 2000</p>
Ensure that appropriate surveillance is being undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement programme for surveillance of infection 	<p>Infection Control Teams in NHS Trusts By 1st June 2000</p>
Utilise surveillance data to guide the control of infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review information outputs at local and Trust level and ensure that clinicians, managers and CCDCs are provided with appropriate and timely information 	<p>Infection Control Teams in NHS Trusts working with HAs, PCGs and NHS Trusts By 1st September 2000</p>

Monitor and optimise antimicrobial prescribing

Objective	Action	By whom and when
Promote optimal prescribing to contain and control antimicrobial resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of actions set out in HSC 1999/049, and report at regular intervals to the Regional Office on progress 	<p>NHS Trusts, HAs and PCGs working with Regional prescribing leads</p> <p>On-going</p>

References

Department of Health. Guidelines for Implementing Controls Assurance in the NHS: Guidance for Directors, November 1999 (CD ROM). Internet address: www.doh.gov.uk/riskman.htm

Hospital infection working group of the Department of Health and Public Health Laboratory. "Hospital Infection control: Guidance on the control of infection in Hospitals." HSG (95)10

This Circular has been issued by:

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