

Clean, Safe Care

Reducing MRSA and other healthcare associated infections

A national update



Foreword from Janice Stevens, Programme Director, MRSA/Cleaner Hospitals, Department of Health

In November 2004, the Department announced its target to halve the number of meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia by 2008. Now in its third year, the MRSA/Cleaner Hospitals programme has seen a huge surge in learning on how to reduce healthcare associated infection (HCAI) and, most importantly, a noticeable decrease in the number of MRSA infections.

Progress has been made, but much more can be achieved. Every trust and its staff should fulfil their obligation to patients by continuing to proactively reduce the risk of HCAI.

Our ultimate success rests on all staff understanding their role and the importance of their personal contribution to effective infection prevention and control.

www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk will help you to understand your role and make your contribution.



Saving Lives – updated and improved

The Saving Lives programme is being relaunched in June to include the latest learning and guidance for infection prevention and control. The highly successful

programme celebrates two years in June, having been implemented in 100% of acute trusts.

Clostridium difficile surveillance system expanded

The mandatory HCAI surveillance system for *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea is changing. From April 2007 the system requires entry of all cases in individuals aged two years and over (not just those over 65).

Details of this change were issued to trusts by a Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer letter in April this year. When used locally this data will help support local improvement on *Clostridium difficile* infection.

For more information, please visit www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk

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The front line of communication

Are you providing clean, safe and reliable care? The Clean, Safe Care website is an information resource designed to enhance your knowledge of good practice and give you access to the latest research and available tools.

What's online?

Information on reducing HCAI
For use from Board to ward.

Shared learning
From colleagues across England and beyond.

Monthly e-bulletins
Sign up to receive the official HCAI news bulletin, packed with the latest information on how to reduce infection.

Community forum
Talk about the latest policies, ask questions and broaden your expertise with colleagues from across the NHS.

Case studies
How are other trusts using their experience and knowledge? What works? What doesn't? The Learning Zone is packed with examples.

Get involved

Online
Want to make a difference to the healthcare policies that affect your trust and its patients? You can upload case studies and information from your trust at www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk as well as view other examples of good practice.

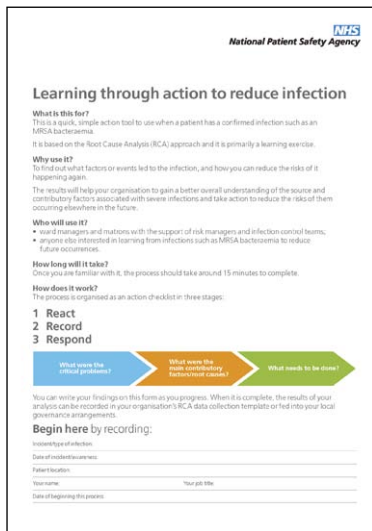
www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk



In person – Performance Improvement Network (PIN) meetings

The Performance Improvement Network meets quarterly to discuss and share information on reducing healthcare associated infections and improvements in best practice, with the aim of improving healthcare standards across the NHS.

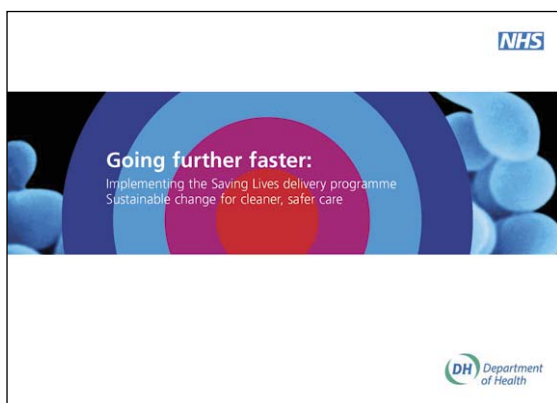
If you would like to be part of the PIN, please email reducingmrsa@dh.gsi.gov.uk to register and receive event information.



Learning through action – National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) root cause analysis tool

Changing practice in a sustainable way requires us to learn specifically from the causes of infection. The root cause analysis tool was designed by the NPSA to enable teams to learn how infections were caused and how to plan so that they do not re-occur. The tool has been evaluated and an electronic version is available at www.npsa.nhs.uk

The tool guides the user through the patient journey, with prompts designed to highlight gaps or omissions in care. This will, in turn, identify problems and challenges, enabling specific action to be taken to reduce future risks.



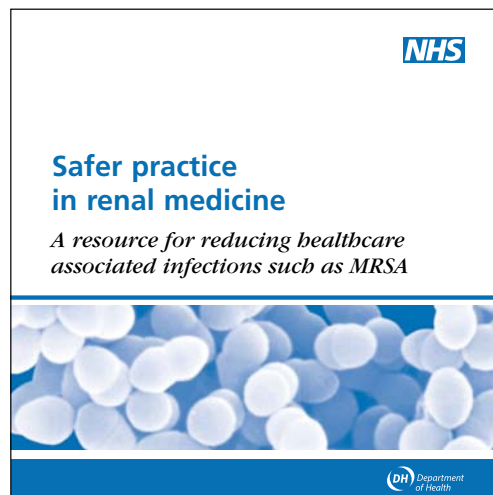
Go further faster on HCAs

A range of Going Further Faster publications, available at www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk, have been designed to focus your energy firstly on areas that will yield the biggest impact on infection rates.

Five key goals for HCAI prevention:

- Ensure safe, high-quality, effective healthcare for patients.
- Be clear about where to focus efforts in your health area.
- Recognise the importance of reducing infection in terms of both quality and the impact that HCAI has on trusts' business and reputation.
- Be aware of current performance and what actions are being taken to reduce HCAI.
- Work towards a culture where there are **no avoidable infections**.

It is what patients rightfully expect and deserve.



Two new tools for renal units

The Department has produced two new renal tools designed to support renal units in reducing the risk of infection. About 8% of MRSA bacteraemia occur in renal dialysis patients. Access these tools at www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk

Screen and decolonise high-risk patients – have you acted?

In November last year, the Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Medical Officer wrote to all trusts outlining how screening and decolonisation best practice could be achieved by acute trusts. All trusts should review their MRSA screening and decolonisation policies and implement a decolonisation regime to reduce the risk of infection and, in particular, the spread of MRSA.

www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk

Infections such as MRSA and Clostridium difficile impact on safety and quality, and cost the NHS around £1 billion per year



cleanyourhands – the campaign continues

Newly designed posters, handbooks and hand hygiene check maps will soon arrive at wards across the country as part of the nationwide cleanyourhands

campaign. Now in its third year, the campaign continues to advise and prompt staff to maintain good hand hygiene at all times to prevent the spread and risk of infection. For more information, visit www.npsa.nhs.uk/cleanyourhands

Essential Steps... for a system-wide reduction of HCAI

Designed to be a self-assessment and best practice guide, *Essential Steps* is an in-depth delivery programme for primary care trusts, mental health trusts, ambulance trusts, general practitioners, independent care providers and care or residential homes. The programme provides a variety of user-friendly tools and techniques to reduce HCAI by introducing and maintaining infection prevention and control principles across an entire organisation.



Taking blood cultures and antimicrobial use

The Department will soon publish the latest advice on taking blood cultures and using antimicrobial drugs. Both papers will be available online at www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk with updates to be included in the monthly clean-safe-care e-bulletin. Sign up now to ensure you are kept informed.

Join the Clean, Safe Care network

- Log on to www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk to join now.
- Keep in touch with other members.
- Keep up to date with the latest information on reducing infection and providing clean, safe, reliable care.
- Discuss issues surrounding MRSA and HCAI online.
- Access a vast database of resources, case studies and examples of good practice.



Questions, comments or feedback?

If you have a question, a comment or some feedback on the MRSA/Cleaner Hospitals programme or the user tools available, you can email them directly to reducingmrsa@dh.gsi.gov.uk