



Dear Colleague

A FRAMEWORK FOR MANDATORY INDUCTION TRAINING IN HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION (HAI) FOR NHSSCOTLAND

Prevention and control of HAI is a high-profile priority issue for NHSScotland. A major three-year programme of work was laid out in the SEHD Ministerial Action Plan on HAI, "[*Preventing infections acquired while receiving healthcare*](#)" (October 2002), now being actioned by the Scottish HAI Task Force, of which I am the Chair. The introduction of mandatory induction training in HAI for healthcare workers in Scotland is one of the key priorities outlined in the Scottish Ministerial HAI Action Plan.

I asked NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to lead on the development of this Framework on behalf of the HAI Task Force. As with all other guidance issued by the HAI Task Force, the Framework was developed by a multidisciplinary working group and was issued for consultation. This final document has taken account of the views expressed from the positive consultation process.

Mandatory induction training in HAI is based on the principle that the greater the number of healthcare workers with direct or indirect patient contact who have an understanding of the Standard Infection Control Precautions, the greater the chance of promoting high personal standards and behaviours, and reducing the prevalence of HAI within NHSScotland.

Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) include nine key elements:

- Hand hygiene
- Personal protective equipment
- Prevention of occupational exposure to infection
- Management of blood and body-fluid spillages
- Management of care equipment
- Environmental control
- Safe disposal of waste, including sharps
- Safe handling, transport and processing of linen
- Appropriate patient placement (including isolation)

From the Chief Medical Officer

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For action

To:
Chief Executives of NHS Boards
Chief Executive of The State Hospital
Chief Executive of the Scottish
Ambulance Service
Directors of Public Health
Consultants in Public Health Medicine
(CD&EH)
Clinical Director, SCIEH

For information

The Care Commission
The Health and Safety Executive
Hospices in Scotland registered with the
Care Commission
Hospitals in Scotland registered with the
Care Commission

Further policy enquiries

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The final framework, to be issued by NES (www.nes-hai.info), is to be implemented with immediate effect in NHS Boards across all clinical areas, including primary care, and I ask that Chief Executives take steps to ensure all staff groups outlined in the Framework receive mandatory induction training in HAI.

In addition, the principles underpinning this Guidance can be applied across all healthcare settings, including those beyond the NHS.

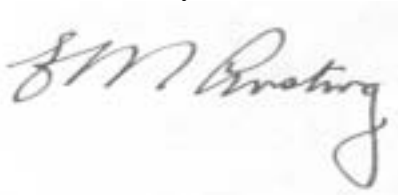
I would ask that NHS Board Chief Executives distribute copies of this letter to:

- Divisional Chief Executives
- Medical and Nursing Directors
- Senior Infection Control Managers (per [HDL \(2001\)10](#))
- Infection Control Teams (for further distribution to all clinical areas)
- Chairs of Risk Management committees (or equivalent)
- Chairs of Clinical Governance committees
- Directors of Human Resources and Development
- Chairs of Area Partnership Forums

You will receive copies of the actual Framework from NES in the next few days.

Please accept my thanks for your assistance with this important initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E M Armstrong', written over a light grey rectangular background.

DR E M ARMSTRONG