

Dear Colleague

NATIONAL SUPPORT FRAMEWORK FOR NHS BOARDS

I wrote to you on 14 December 2009 to introduce the revised WATT Risk Matrix, now known as the Hospital Infection Investigation Advisory Tool (HIIAT). This is a standard tool for assessing the severity of an HAI incident or outbreak and facilitating effective communications between boards, Health Protection Scotland (HPS) and Scottish Government (SG).

Following introduction of the HIIAT, individual HAI Taskforce members received a number of requests from boards asking for greater clarity on how the support available through national agencies in the event of an incident/outbreak should be accessed and, importantly, how boards could be assured the support being asked for was appropriate for responding to the particular circumstance being faced.

This resulted in a small group being formed, led by the Scottish Government HAI Policy Unit and including representatives from Health Protection Scotland, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland, Health Facilities Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland, the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group and NHS Board Chief Executives (through their representative on the HAI Taskforce) to develop a national framework to support boards when responding to HAI incident/outbreaks, as well as HEI findings and surveillance exceedance.

The detail of the framework is presented in algorithm form (copy attached) along with a brief description of the roles and responsibilities each national group has in supporting the HAI agenda. This framework is complementary to the HIIAT process and confirms that HPS will be the first point of contact for NHS Boards/Scottish Government Health Directorate (SGHD) in assessing and coordinating support needs for responding to HAI incident/outbreaks, HEI findings and surveillance exceedance. The HEI will remain outwith these national support arrangements, given their inspectorial function, and escalation arrangements as currently defined between the HEI and SG will continue to apply.

**From the Chief Nursing Officer
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29 September 2010

CNO(2010)1

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information

NHS Board Medical Directors
NHS Board Nurse Directors
NHS Directors of Public Health
NHS Board HAI Executive Leads
NHS Board Infection Control
Managers

Further Enquiries

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This framework is currently being tested through the provision of support to boards in the delivery of the additional 15% SAB target to be met by end March 2011. It will be reviewed in 6 months time. This will allow for reflection on the lessons learned from application of the SAB support arrangements, as well as any incidents/outbreaks over the coming winter months and the ongoing programme of HEI visits.

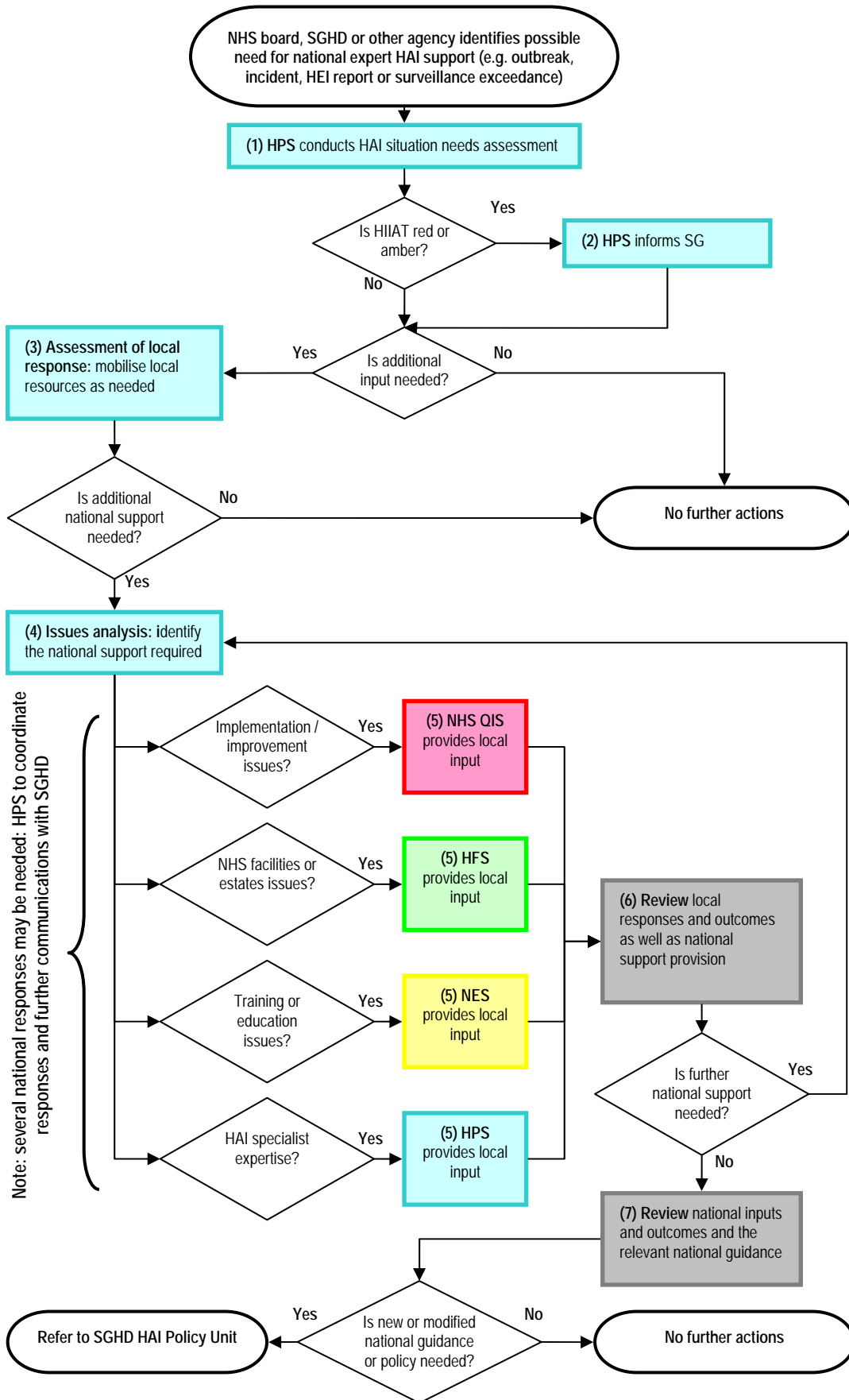
In the meantime if you wish to discuss application of the framework further, please contact Kevin Hanlon in the HAI Policy Unit by phone on 0131 244 5998 or by email at kevin.hanlon@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



ROS MOORE
Chief Nursing Officer

Draft flowchart showing responsibilities of national agencies for HAI support of NHS boards



Notes

At steps (1), (2), (3) and (4) above, HPS leads in the assessment and coordination roles.

At step (5), it is anticipated that input from more than one national agency will be needed. In this case, HPS would retain the coordinating function for the response and would continue to lead the actions at steps (6) and (7).

If input from only a single national agency is required at step (5), then that agency should continue to lead the response and the review and assessment of inputs, responses and outcomes in step (6) and of guidance in step (7).

If, during a single agency response that agency identifies the need for input from another national agency, then HPS should be informed and HPS should then lead and coordinate the support.

HAI Roles and Responsibilities of National Agencies

HPS

- plan and deliver effective and specialist national services which co-ordinate, strengthen and support activities aimed at protecting all the people of Scotland from HAI.
- provide advice, support and information to health professionals, national and local government, the general public and a number of other bodies that play a part in protecting health.
- ensure a consistent, efficient and effective approach in the delivery of health protection services, including infection prevention and control
- co-ordinate the efforts of the NHS in Scotland in HAI, especially when a rapid response is required to a major threat;
- help to increase the public understanding of, and influencing attitudes to, HAI and facilitating their level of involvement in the measures needed to protect them from these;
- the source in Scotland of expert advice, guidance and support to government, NHS, other organisations and the public on HAI issues;
- help to develop a competent health protection workforce, inclusive of ICTs;
- improve the knowledge base for HAI through research and development.

QIS

- take the lead role in the development of standards, guidelines and best practice statements based on a sound evidence base.
- provide NHSScotland with HAI advice and guidance to support improvements in patient care and service delivery
- engage with health care practitioners to provide support to bring about sustainable, reliable improvements in HAI by transforming the culture of patient centred care.
- facilitate the collation, analysis and evaluation of available evidence to identify best practice across the NHS Scotland in relation to HAI
- facilitate the collection, analysis and publication of clinical outcome and performance data by NHS boards in relation to HAI
- provide support and guidance to NHSScotland to design and implement tailored HAI implementation and improvement programme's to meet local needs to eradicate avoidable infections and improve patient outcomes
- support NHS Boards in the use of data to aid assessment and measurement of local performance in reducing avoidable HAIs
- collaborate with other special health boards and national organisations to create synergy between policy directives and initiatives in relation to HAI and translate these into effective strategies for the prevention and management of HAI at Board level.
- provide expert clinical advice in the development of clinical practice relating to HAI and patient safety through national and local negotiation in order to support developments and improvements in clinical practice and patient experience
- work collaboratively with key colleagues in Scottish Government, NHS QIS, NES and HPS to develop an integrated and cohesive approach to the provision of relevant educational and training initiatives, using a range of methods in relation to HAI
- through the Quality Improvement Hub, build capacity and capability in the use of improvement methods to support clinical staff and IPCT teams bring improvement approaches into their work

NHS Education for Scotland

- develop and provide educational solutions for prevention and control of Healthcare Associated Infections(HAI) relevant to the needs of all or any staff groups across NHS Scotland
- provide support and guidance on educational resources to meet local needs
- develop and provide national resources for training and education in response to urgent need, e.g. H1N1 immunisation programme
- develop and support implementation of educational frameworks and strategies to underpin national policy and guidance.
- establish a network to support HAI Education Leads in developing and implementation of HAI education strategy across all healthcare staff
- establish NES strategic engagement with NHS Boards through senior named contacts

Health Facilities Scotland

- promoting a coherent approach to the prevention and control of HAI within NHS Scotland across a wide raft of initiatives;
- co-ordinating new and existing programmes and activities to reduce duplication of effort throughout NHS Scotland and to share examples of best practice;
- promoting a multidisciplinary approach, importantly including members of the public in all areas of our work where applicable;
- engaging with Board management to embed the technical and non clinical principles of infection control within organisations, and promoting the message that infection control is good, safe practice and good resource management;
- promoting the key message that infection control is not solely the domain of infection control 'experts' - "infection control is everybody's responsibility";
- providing support to SGHD and Boards through specialist technical experts from a range of multi disciplinary environments, including Decontamination, Engineering, Construction, Research and Cleaning.

The HFS remit also includes:

- working in partnership with HPS and NES on specific studies and projects;
- verification of cleaning standards through independent audit;
- working with the HEI team in providing support to Boards regarding issues raised within inspection reports and ensuring continuous improvement;
- developing an HAI estates monitoring tool that will allow all Boards to report to SGHD on the current status of the estate built environment in relation to specific HAI risks;
- monitoring of the estate and providing support to Boards to improve standards;
- direct advice and written guidance to Boards on Facilities aspects of HAI;
- support for Boards in planning and execution of construction and refurbishment projects;
- facilitating debate and sharing of knowledge between Boards;
- support for SGHD in the development of policy;
- reviewing the circumstances at hospitals where an increased incidence of HAI had occurred to consider whether the patient environment may have been a contributing factor;
- development of tools to facilitate comparison of the quality of maintenance of the healthcare environment.

Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group

- provide national leadership for the prudent use of antimicrobials in Scotland.
- improve the quality of prescribing of antimicrobials by front line professionals across all healthcare settings in Scotland.
- ensure that essential organisational and accountability infrastructures relevant to antimicrobial stewardship are in place within each NHS board.
- develop education programmes to support healthcare professionals in antimicrobial stewardship.
- develop national systems and processes for collection, collation, analysis, correlation, reporting and dissemination of antimicrobial utilisation and resistance data.
- develop guidance on local systems and standards for surveillance of antimicrobial use, antimicrobial resistance and Clostridium difficile infection.
- develop national guidance on antimicrobial prescribing policies to minimize Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) and antimicrobial resistance.
- apply quality improvement methods to the management of infections to develop processes to optimise the use of antimicrobials in common infections in all healthcare settings.
- establish an Antimicrobial Management Team (AMT) network to provide peer support and communications network for AMTs.
- actively engage with the AMT network to inform strategic thinking, develop national consensus and plan operational delivery of outputs from the work streams.
- provide advice to AMTs and NHS boards on all aspects of antimicrobial stewardship.
- provide advice to the Healthcare Environment Inspectorate on national standards for antimicrobial prescribing Through SAPG guidance.
- organise and lead national projects on antimicrobial stewardship including measurement of the impact of stewardship interventions, including unintended consequences.
- develop links with other national programmes involved in HAI, patient safety and infection management e.g. Acute Medicine, Haematology/Oncology etc.
- collaborate with other UK and European organizations involved in antimicrobial stewardship.
- publicise the work of SAPG nationally and internationally.
- support national research initiatives relating to antimicrobial stewardship.
- provide a forum for considering and promoting public health campaigns relating to antimicrobial use.