

Chief Nursing Officer, Patients, Public and Health Professions
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To: HAI Executive Leads
Infection Control Managers
Health Protection Scotland



22 December 2011

Dear Colleague

Amendments to mandatory SSI surveillance

I wrote to you in June 2011 advising of temporary amendments to SSI surveillance to free up time to undertake the national point prevalence survey.

Many Boards took up the option of using the 'light' methodology. The experience gained with this methodology during the course of 2011 is that it is robust and less onerous for Boards. Therefore Boards using the light methodology for mandatory surveillance may continue to do so. Boards wishing to undertake the light protocol from now are also welcome to do so and are advised to contact HPS.

[HDL\(38\) 2006](#) otherwise remains extant policy including for voluntary surveillance (with the option of light surveillance for SSI).

The point prevalence survey will inform, among other things, the future direction of mandatory surveillance within NHSScotland. I anticipate that HDL (2006) 38 will be revised in the light of the PPS results, during 2012/13.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your participation in the 2011 point prevalence survey.

Yours sincerely

Ros Moore
Chief Nursing Officer