

Chief Nursing Officer, Patients, Public and Health Professions
Directorate

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To: Nurse Directors

Cc: Infection Control Managers
HAI Executive Leads
HAI Commodities Advisory Group
Health Protection Scotland
Health Facilities Scotland
National Procurement
Healthcare Environment Inspectorate



20 December 2011

Dear Colleague

MATTRESSES AND MATTRESS COVERS

In March 2011 a position statement was published by Health Protection Scotland, Health Facilities Scotland and National Procurement which aimed to address some concerns raised by NHS Boards about mattress covers failing and causing strikethrough.

That statement provided a reassurance that there were no inherent failings of the mattresses or their covers supplied on national contract and offered some guidance to NHS Boards on cleaning and inspection regimes.

A further statement has recently issued to Infection Control Managers intended to assist NHS Boards with their mattress management regimes. The full statement with annexes is available at:

http://www.nhsscotlandprocurement.scot.nhs.uk/images/files/general/position_statement_update_issue1.pdf A version without annexes is attached for ease. Nurse Directors are asked to take note of this statement and particular note of NHS Scotland's current decontamination policy which states that:

- Mattress covers must be able to withstand 10,000 ppm available chlorine for effective decontamination of a blood spill
- For general disinfection 1,000ppm available chlorine is adequate
- **It is imperative that the mattress cover is rinsed thoroughly and dried thoroughly following decontamination with a chlorine-releasing agent.**

Discussions from the field suggest that this last stage of rinsing and drying is not always followed within NHS Scotland. I would ask you draw attention to this particular point to ensure this guidance is followed within your NHS Board.

Yours sincerely

Ros Moore
Chief Nursing Officer