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COMMON SERVICES AGENCY
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THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

NHS
MEL(1993)86

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

21 June 1993

Dear Colleague

HOSPITAL LAUNDRY ARRANGEMENTS FOR USED AND INFECTED LINEN

Summary

1. This letter amends the advice given in paragraph 14 of the guidance notes issued with NHS MEL(1993)7 on 3 March 1993 following clarification of current policy on occupational health and x-ray procedures. It also corrects the incorrect load temperature level quoted in Paragraph 4 of the original notes.

Background

2. Paragraph 14 stated that staff should show evidence of a normal chest x-ray within the past year. It has been brought to our attention that annual x-rays are no longer necessary for occupational screening because of the need to avoid excessive radiation exposure. We have been advised that a mantoux or heaf test with associated BCG vaccination when necessary is considered adequate. However, it may be necessary to identify those staff with chronic, recurrent or recent chest problems, especially where these have led to hospitalisation. An individual decision in such cases on the need or otherwise for chest x-ray is therefore desirable.

3. Paragraph 4 of the notes indicated a load temperature of 105°F (65°C). This should, have read "150°F (65°)".

Action

4. Health Board General Managers and NHS Trust Chief Executives should draw this letter to the attention of staff responsible for laundry services in order that they should amend paragraphs 4 and 14 of the Guidance notes.

G. Tucker

G W TUCKER
Directorate of Strategic Management

Addressees

For action:
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Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

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To be copied to:

Laundry Services Managers for Action

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