

Dear Colleague

HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION: SHFN 30 AND HAI-SCRIBE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Summary

This letter notifies colleagues of the publication by Health Facilities Scotland (HFS) of an Implementation Strategy and a Contractor Endorsement Document to assist NHS Boards in taking forward the guidance set out within Scottish Health Facilities Note (SHFN) 30: 'Infection control in the built environment: Design and planning' and HAI-SCRIBE (Healthcare Associated Infection System for Controlling Risk in the Built Environment).

Action

Addressees are required to ensure that a copy of this letter is cascaded to all appropriate staff within their area of responsibility. Use of the Implementation Strategy, SHFN 30, HAI-SCRIBE and the Contractor Endorsement Document is a mandatory requirement for all NHSScotland capital projects and maintenance/refurbishment projects. This requirement takes immediate effect.

Background

Demolition, construction or maintenance activities, in or near healthcare establishments, can pose significantly increased Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) risks to vulnerable individuals. In the main, these risks can result in serious life-threatening airborne or water-borne infections such as Legionellosis, Cryptosporidiosis or Aspergillosis. Patients using healthcare facilities are more likely to be immunocompromised and also more likely to receive intensive medical interventions, which in turn increases their vulnerability to opportunistic infections. Every effort must therefore be taken to acknowledge and ultimately reduce these risks.

Developing solutions to the non-clinical issues surrounding HAI requires a clear understanding of how the briefing, planning, design, procurement, construction, commissioning and on-going maintenance of property can contribute to the prevention and control of HAI.

13 December 2007

Addresses

For action Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards.

Chief Executives, Special Health Boards.

NHSScotland Strategic Facilities Group.

NHSScotland Property Advisory Group.

Infection Control Managers, NHS Boards.

For information

Director, Health Facilities Scotland.

Chief Executive, National Services
Scotland.

Chief Executive, Architecture and Design
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Enquires to:

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To help achieve this Health Facilities Scotland (HFS) have produced two documents: Scottish Health Facilities Note 30 (SHFN 30) 'Infection control in the built environment: Design and planning' and; HAI-SCRIBE (Healthcare Associated Infection System for the Control of Risk of Infection in the Built Environment).

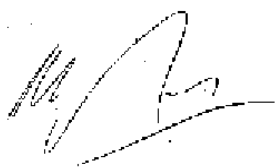
Both documents aim to provide information on the prevention and control of infection and on the prevention of cross-infection and cross-contamination in healthcare facilities to those responsible for the planning, design and maintenance of such facilities. Further background information is provided at Annexe A.

Implementation

SHFN 30 and HAI-SCRIBE can play a vital part in supporting the drive to reduce HAI within NHSScotland. The guidance contained within these documents, produced in 2005, now has to be effectively implemented and steps have to be taken to ensure that the implementation is successful throughout NHSScotland. Doing so will ensure that control of infection remains at the forefront of the design, planning, construction refurbishment and maintenance of healthcare facilities. To help put this into practice HFS has produced an Implementation Strategy, and a Contractor Endorsement Document. Copies of these can be accessed at the HFS website: <http://www.hfs.scot.nhs.uk/> .

Implementation of HAI-SCRIBE and indeed SHFN 30 should be the responsibility of a specialist multi-disciplinary professional staff team who have the necessary and appropriate skills in relation to the healthcare facility being planned, designed, constructed, refurbished or maintained. The use of a multi-disciplinary team is necessary for the success of a new build or refurbishment healthcare project. Therefore the planning and implementation process should include an array of both healthcare professionals and contractor personnel. However, it is essential that all members of the project team have a background understanding of the principles of prevention and control of infection in the built healthcare environment.

Yours sincerely



ALEX SMITH

Further information

1. Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) can be described as an infection which was neither present nor incubating at the time of admission but which has developed during the course of a stay in hospital or healthcare facility. HAI is important both medically and economically. Medically, it is important because of the mortality and morbidity associated with infection with approximately 1 in 10 of patients acquiring an infection as a result of receiving treatment and care. Economically, it is important as the annual cost to NHSScotland attributed to HAI is estimated at £180 million.
2. HAI is a complex issue involving the whole patient journey and the many different elements of treatment and care provision. The majority of directions taken to address HAI issues have focussed on the clinical aspects associated with the prevention and control of infection with many strategies, policies, guidance and research being carried out in this area. However, it is clear that the non-clinical aspects including the built environment have a role to play in the prevention and control of HAI. This is widely recognised in the HAI Taskforce Programme.

SHFN 30

3. SHFN 30 provides an insight to the key factors within the built environment, which can impact on the prevention and control of infection. It is therefore intended as a first point of reference on prevention and control of infection for healthcare estates and facilities managers, architects, builders, engineers, surveyors, health planners and Infection Control Teams working on healthcare estate, new build and refurbishment projects. SHFN 30 should also be seen as a reference guide for use in conjunction with the HAI-SCRIBE system.

HAI-SCRIBE

4. HAI-SCRIBE aims to reduce infection hazards through the use of a prevention and control of infection questionnaire using a number of scenarios within the built healthcare environment. These scenarios are:
 - the proposed site for development of a healthcare facility;
 - the design and planning stage of the proposed healthcare facility;
 - the construction and refurbishment stage of the healthcare facility;
 - the ongoing maintenance of the healthcare facility.

SHFN 30 and HAI-SCRIBE are available at the Health Facilities Scotland website:
<http://www.hfs.scot.nhs.uk/> .