



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department

Dear Colleague

NATIONAL HAND HYGIENE CAMPAIGN FOR SCOTLAND

On 13 October 2005, the Minister for Health and Community Care took part in the launch of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Patient Safety Challenge "Clean Care is Safer Care". At the event, the Minister pledged to continue the work of the Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Task Force for a further two years and to launch a national hand hygiene campaign involving NHSScotland and the general public.

Health Protection Scotland (HPS) has been asked on behalf of the HAI Task Force to oversee the development and delivery of this national hand hygiene campaign. The objective of the campaign is to reduce avoidable illness amongst patients, staff and the general public by improving hand hygiene practice.

The campaign is governed by a Steering Board which meets on a monthly basis and is chaired by Tim Brett, Director of HPS. The campaign has two key elements:

- A public media campaign which is due to launch towards the end of January 2007 and will run for around 4-6 weeks.
- An awareness-raising campaign aimed at NHS Staff, patients and visitors to NHS Healthcare settings which will launch alongside the public campaign run until March 2008.

Both elements of the campaign aim to achieve a sustainable change in culture in relation to hand hygiene practice.

To facilitate the implementation of the campaign within local NHS Boards, funding will be provided to each NHS Board to employ a Local Health Board Co-ordinator (LHBC) until the end of March 2008.

From the Chief Nursing Officer

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For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information

Infection Control Managers
Directors: Health Facilities
Scotland, NHS Education for
Scotland, NHS Health Scotland
and Health Protection Scotland
Directors of Finance, NHS
Boards
Nursing Directors, NHS Boards

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Funding of around £25k will be provided for the financial year 2006/07 to cover the cost of employing a co-ordinator from December 2006, plus recruitment and set up costs. Around £50k will be provided for the financial year 2007/08. This amount will be issued to each mainland NHS Board, and the Scottish Ambulance Service, in due course. NHS Orkney, Shetland, Western Isles, Golden Jubilee Hospital, will receive £12.5k for 2006/07 and £25k for 2007/08. For this level of funding, we would expect a co-ordinator to be employed on a part-time basis. The State Hospitals Board and the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service will receive £6k each for 2006/07 and £12k for 2007/08 to support the implementation of the campaign in these Boards. This could cover employing a part-time member of staff or allocating dedicated staff time to the campaign.

A job description is currently being drafted, following which the post will be graded nationally. The job description will be issued to all Boards within the next few weeks. It is expected that the recruitment process for these co-ordinators will commence within each NHS Board immediately upon receipt of the Job Description. The LHBC will be responsible for the following activities once they are in post:

- Undertaking a baseline hand hygiene audit and subsequent audits within their NHS Board (the methodology for this is to be developed as part of the national campaign)
- Developing an implementation plan detailing the activities to be undertaken to raise awareness of Hand Hygiene and improve practice within the NHS Board up until March 2008. This will include linking into current hand hygiene training.
- Establishing the volume of campaign publicity materials required and advising the HPS Project Team accordingly.

It is envisaged that the LHBC will report directly to the Infection Control Manager. Each co-ordinator will be required to liaise closely with the HPS Project Team throughout the duration of the Project and will be the central point of contact for the campaign in that NHS Board. To assist the LHBC in developing an implementation plan, HPS will issue an Implementation Framework upon which an implementation plan can be developed for each Board.

It is intended that the main activities to be undertaken by each NHS Board will start at the same time as the public media campaign. NHS Boards should therefore aim to have the local co-ordinator in post no later than the end of December 2006.

An Audit Tool will be developed by the Steering Board and issued to each NHS Board within the coming months. As part of this activity, the training needs of the co-ordinators will be reviewed and any training that is required on the use of the Audit Tool will be provided by HPS.

Prior to the recruitment of the LHBC, the HPS Project Team will be contacting both the Infection Control Managers and the Communication Teams within each NHS Board to provide progress updates on the campaign activities and to ensure that the activities to be undertaken by the LHBC are understood in advance of the posts being filled.

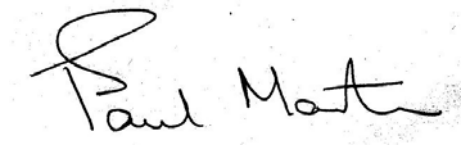
Should HPS require specific information from a NHS Board, the Infection Control Manager will be contacted in the first instance, until the LHBC is in post.

An HDL will be issued to all NHS Boards with details of the LHBC role, including a job description and information on grading. **For further details on the Hand Hygiene Campaign, please contact the Project Manager, Simon White, on 0141 282 2901.**

Good hand hygiene is recognised as being one of the single most effective interventions in tackling HAI. The scope of the campaign reflects the fact that infection control is everyone's business – NHS staff, patients, visitors and the general public. I look forward to seeing the positive impact of this exciting campaign and hope that you are able to make the very best of the funding and support that we are offering for local implementation.

This letter has been copied to Infection Control Managers or their equivalent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

PAUL MARTIN
Chief Nursing Officer and Interim Director for Workforce