

HSS(MD)9/2000

To: HSS Boards – Chief Executives  
HSS Boards - Directors of Public Health  
HSS Boards - Consultants in Communicable Disease Control  
HSS Boards - Directors of Nursing  
HSS Boards - Directors of Pharmaceutical Services/ Pharmaceutical Advisors  
HSS Trusts – Chief Executives  
HSS Trusts – Medical Directors  
HSS Trusts – Directors of Nursing  
HSS Trusts – Pharmacy Managers  
HSS Trusts – Chairs of Infection Control Committees  
CDSC(NI) - Regional Epidemiologist  
Medical Microbiologists  
Infection Control Nurses  
Chairman of Regional Advisory Committee on Communicable Disease Control

26 April 2000

Dear Colleague

**The Management and Control of Hospital Infection: *Action by the HPSS for the Management and Control of Infection in Hospitals in Northern Ireland***

**Summary**

This circular sets out a programme of action for the HPSS to:

- strengthen the prevention and control of infection in hospital;
- secure appropriate health care services for patients with infection;
- improve surveillance of hospital infection;
- monitor and optimise antimicrobial prescribing.

It complements HSS(MD)8/99 “Resistance to Antibiotics and other Antimicrobial agents” and “Hospital Infection control: Guidance on the control of infection in Hospitals.” (the Cooke Report) issued by CREST in 1997.

**Action**

- Health and Social Services Boards, and HSS Trusts should work together to implement the attached action programme;
- The Boards of HSS Trusts should formally review, at least annually arrangements for the control of infection within hospitals for which they are responsible;
- Directors of Public Health, working with the Department, will ensure that the HPSS has robust infection control in accordance with the timetable set out in the Annex to this letter.



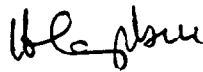
The Hospital Infection Sub-committee of the Regional Advisory Committee on Communicable Disease Control has been requested to carry out a review of the current arrangements for infection control in hospitals and to report to the Department by the end of the year.

Further information on this circular may be obtained from Public Health Branch, Room C.4.22, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SL, Telephone 02890 522133.

Yours sincerely

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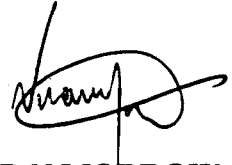
Yours sincerely



**DR H CAMPBELL**  
Chief Medical Officer



**MISS J HILL**  
Chief Nursing Officer



**DR N MORROW**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

cc National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting  
Professors of Nursing Services  
NICPGMDE  
NICPPET  
CMAC  
CREST

**Strengthen prevention and control of communicable disease and infection control processes**

Objective	Action	By whom and when
Secure appropriate arrangements for the control of hospital infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure senior management and Board level commitment</li> </ul>	Chief Executives of HSS Trusts By 1 July 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review service agreements on hospital infection control</li> </ul>	HSS Boards, in collaboration with HSS Trusts By 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure appropriate membership and functioning of Hospital Infection Control Committee</li> </ul>	Chief Executives of HSS Trusts By 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure appropriate composition and functioning of Hospital Infection Control Team, including support staffing and resourcing</li> </ul>	Chief Executives of HSS Trusts By 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that programmes for the control of infection are in place and working effectively</li> </ul>	Chief Executives with Infection Control Teams in HSS Trusts By 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that appropriate infection control policies and procedures are in place, implemented and monitored</li> </ul>	Chief Executives with Infection Control Teams in HSS Trusts By 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that appropriate education on infection control is included in induction and orientation programmes for all health care staff</li> </ul>	Infection Control Teams in HSS Trusts By 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2001

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom and when</b>
Improve service provision through clinical audit and continuing professional development (CPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the infection control content of clinical audit and CPD programmes for HSS Trust staff, including the Infection Control Team.</li> </ul>	Chief Executives of HSS Trusts working with Medical, Pharmaceutical and Nursing Directors and Infection Control Teams By 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2000
Secure a safe clinical environment through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>high standards of hygiene and general cleanliness of the hospital environment</li> <li>consideration of infection control issues in service developments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure appropriate contracts are in place and monitored</li> <li>Involve Infection Control Teams in service specification, including building works and purchase of equipment</li> </ul>	<p>Chief Executives of HSS Trusts working with Infection Control Teams By 1<sup>st</sup> April 2001</p> <p>Chief Executives of HSS Trusts working with Infection Control Teams By 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2000</p>

**Secure appropriate health care services for patients with infection**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom and when</b>
Secure provision of appropriate isolation facilities within each Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake risk assessment to determine appropriate provision within the Trust and agree level and type of provision with DHSS&amp;PS (Secondary Care)</li> </ul>	Chief Executives of HSS Trusts working with Infection Control Teams By 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2001

### Improve surveillance

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom and when</b>
Ensure that microbiology services meet the infection control and public health surveillance needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that appropriate and timely information is provided to the Infection Control Team.</li> </ul>	Chief Executives of HSS Trusts working with clinicians, providers of microbiology services and Infection Control Teams By 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that laboratories report regularly to the relevant Consultant in Communicable Disease Control and Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (NI)</li> </ul>	Chief Executives of HSS Trusts working with providers of microbiology services, Consultants in Communicable Disease Control (CCDCs) and the Regional Epidemiologist By 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure appropriate staffing and IT support to undertake surveillance</li> </ul>	Chief Executives of HSS Trusts working with Infection Control Teams By 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2001
Ensure that appropriate surveillance is being undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement programme for surveillance of infection</li> </ul>	Infection Control Teams in HSS Trusts By 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2000
Utilise surveillance data to guide the control of infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review information outputs at Trust level and ensure that clinicians, managers and CCDCs are provided with appropriate and timely information</li> </ul>	Infection Control Teams in HSS Trusts working with HSS Boards, other HSS Trusts and CDSC(NI) By 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2000

### Monitor and optimise antimicrobial prescribing

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom and when</b>
Promote optimal prescribing to contain and control antimicrobial resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue implementation of actions set out in HSS(MD)8/99 and report on progress at regular intervals to DHSS&amp;PS (Medical and Pharmaceutical Branches)</li> </ul>	HSS Trusts and HSS Boards working with DHSS&PS (Medical and Pharmaceutical Branches)  On-going

## **References**

HSS(MD)8/99 "Resistance to Antibiotics and other Antimicrobial agents"

Hospital infection working group of the Department of Health and Public Health Laboratory. "Hospital Infection control: Guidance on the control of infection in Hospitals." (The Cooke Report) March 1995