

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

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HSS(MD)10/2008

To: Chief Executives of Trusts
Chief Executives of Boards
Medical Directors of Trusts
Directors of Public Health
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control
David Marshall, NISRA
Sandy Fitzpatrick, CSA

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)10/2008
Date: 18 March 2008

Dear Colleague,

**ENHANCED MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEATHS WHERE
C.DIFFICILE OR MRSA INFECTION IS MENTIONED ON THE DEATH
CERTIFICATE**

1. I am writing to confirm the arrangements which have been agreed between the Department and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), Central Services Agency (CSA) and the Medical Director in each of the Trusts in relation to monitoring of deaths where C.difficile or MRSA infection is mentioned on the death certificate.
2. As of 1 April 2008 new arrangements will come into place which (i) will support Trusts in their ability to monitor deaths occurring in their Trust where these important Healthcare Associated Infections are mentioned on the death certificate and (ii) for more frequent regional reporting of deaths where these infections are mentioned on the death certificate.
3. Deaths are registered by the General Registrar Office on receipt of information from District Registration Offices or the Coroner's Office. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) obtain information from these death certificates in relation to whether C.difficile or MRSA has been mentioned on the death certificate or has been described as an underlying cause of death. It should be noted that most deaths are registered within 5 days, however it may take up to 10 days for some deaths to be registered. To date NISRA have analysed this data on an annual basis and produced an Annual Report.

