

From:
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**Health, Social Services
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www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

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To: Chief Executives, HSC Trusts (*for onward dissemination to Trust IT Leads*)
Medical Directors HSC Trusts (*for onward dissemination to Consultants in Orthopaedics and Obstetrics*)
Nursing Directors (*for onward dissemination to midwives, Infection Prevention and Control Nurses*)

For information:

Directors of Public Health, HSS Boards
Director, HISC
Regional Epidemiologists

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)22/2008
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Dear Colleague

NEW WEB BASED TOOL TO SUPPORT SURVEILLANCE OF HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS – SURGICAL SITE INFECTIONS

I am writing to advise you of a new DHSSPS funded web based tool, **MR Tables**, to support surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections at Trust level. The Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance Centre (HISC) is launching this web-based tool to enable of feedback surveillance results from the mandatory programmes in Orthopaedics and Caesarean sections to clinicians and other healthcare staff.

A series of online reports on surgical site infections associated with orthopaedic surgery and caesarean sections will be accessed via the NHS network. Those who logon using a valid username and password will be able to view their Trust results on screen. There is also the capability to export results to Word, Excel or PowerPoint for the preparation of reports etc at Trust level. This however requires the download / installation of an **ActiveX** component on the computers used for accessing this data. To use this facility, and where the user does not have administration rights, this process will require local Trust IT assistance.

Given the priority associated with robust monitoring of HCAs and feedback of data to inform action I would ask that Trust IT Departments address this issue as soon as possible. This process need only be completed once and should be installed as part of a Group Policy Installation by Trust IT departments. Attached at annex A is a more detailed explanation of the use and requirements of the ActiveX component for your IT department.

More information for Trust IT departments.

What do we need to access MR Tables?

MR Tables is web-based and therefore only requires standard access to the Northern Ireland “NHS” network. This enables authorised users to look at the results and reports of surveillance initiatives they participate in online. This will speed up the feedback process of these initiatives.

If the user wishes to download the data and charts for their own reports they must as a one off process allow the ActiveX component of MR Tables to be installed on their PC, where the user does not have administrator permissions this process will require local IT assistance. They can then export their reports into Word, Excel or PowerPoint. This process need only be completed once and may where large numbers of staff require this facility be installed as part of a Group Policy Installation by Trust IT departments.

What does the ActiveX do?

“The Office Export controls interact with the Office object models for the purpose of exporting tables and charts. The exports are implemented as downloaded ActiveX controls due to Office license restrictions. As SPSS would infringe Office licensing if their software interacted with Office object models on the server, the exports are run on the client, using the client license of Office.”

More Technical information below:

“During exporting of data, we need ActiveX controls to talk with Office applications and manipulate data in the Office documents. The specific applications we reference through ActiveX controls are Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Chart. There are no other activities that we use with the controls.”

Office XP, Word 2002, Word 2003, and Word 2007. Unlike the PowerPoint Export component, which use automation in a VBScript, the Word Export component uses a Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) macro for the export, because it provides superior performance when exporting to Word (up to 20 times faster than VBScript automation). The macro is temporarily inserted into the Word template and removed at the end of the export process. The macro takes as input the tables XML (which defines the tables to be exported) and the properties XML (which defines the custom properties), and a reference to the ActiveX control. The macro then generates the Word document using the Word object model (and the Excel object model for display options including charts). The macro uses the Windows clipboard to copy and paste the annotations, in order to retain any HTML formatting. The copy operation is implemented using a method in the Active X control, and this means a reference to the control is passed into the macro. Active X is needed to create data object connections (ADO) to SQL. The objects used in Active X are “connection object,” “command object,” and “recordset object”