

ITEM: 7

**MEETING: Trust Board 21 November 2007**

**TITLE: Infection Control update**

**SUMMARY:** Attached is the updated infection control action plan (Appendix A), which is being overseen by the Infection Control Committee. The ICC last met on 16 November 2007.

Steady progress is being made against most areas of the action plan, which the ICC reviews in detail at every meeting. The trust performance report also demonstrates a reduction in HCAI over the past two months. The MRSA bacteraemia three month rolling total is now below trajectory, and the twelve month rolling total is also reducing.

The visible leadership programme has continued to focus on infection control over the past two months. Ward based assessments of compliance with protocols for managing patients with TB were done in October, and will be repeated in November. This provided a useful opportunity to reinforce staff knowledge about the appropriate use of masks. Hand hygiene reports have continued to be done monthly, and are showing a slow improvement (Appendix B). The results are fed back to every ward and to all consultants, who are asked to reinforce the message with their junior staff.

Ward environment and cleaning audits were undertaken in September and October, using the NHS national cleaning standards (Appendix C), and are due to be repeated on 19 November. Action plans are in place in ED and maternity, to address the poor scores from September, including an increase in night time cleaning for ED, and the introduction of housekeepers for ED and maternity. Wards which scored below 60% in October have also been asked to produce action plans to respond to the audit findings. In addition, a proposal has been agreed to purchase new curtains, to allow all ward curtains to be changed three times every year, in addition to the individual changes that take place in response to demand, and to introduce a programme for scheduled annual deep cleans in every ward.

The DH MRSA improvement support team visited the Whittington on 11 September. The draft report has been received and is currently being agreed with the DH. The formal action plan in response to the visit will be brought to the next Board meeting, together with an update on the ongoing monitoring of progress.

Board members may well have read the press coverage following the Healthcare Commission investigation into cases of *Clostridium difficile* at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. NHS London have asked all trusts to undertake a self-assessment against the recommendations made in the report. The executive summary from the report and our self-assessment are attached (Appendix D); once agreed by Trust Board, it will be submitted to the SHA.

The 2006/7 annual report from Dr Michael Kelsey, previously Director of Infection Prevention and Control is now available, and has been circulated to Board members under separate cover.

**ACTION: For information and agreement of self-assessment**

**REPORT FROM:** Deborah Wheeler, Director of Nursing & Clinical Development /  
Acting Director of Infection Prevention and Control

**Financial Validation**

Lead: Director of Finance

N/a

**Compliance with statute, directions,  
policy, guidance**

Lead: All directors

Saving Lives, national MRSA target reduction,  
Healthcare Commission investigation into  
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust,  
October 2007

**Compliance with Healthcare Commission  
Core/Developmental Standards**

Lead: Director of Nursing & Clinical Development

**Reference: C4a**

**Compliance with Auditors' Local  
Evaluation standards (ALE)**

Lead: Director of Finance

**Reference:**

**Compliance with requirements of FT  
application and monitoring regime**

Lead: Director of Strategy & Performance

**Reference:** integrated business plan; risk  
rating for quality