

Going further faster:

Meeting the MRSA target and increasing productivity

A pocket guide for chief executives and boards

Healthcare-associated infections (HCAI) cost the NHS around £1 billion per year and between £4,000 and £10,000 each. They also cause patients and their families unnecessary pain and anxiety. HCAI affects all aspects of Trusts' performance, productivity as well as clinical quality. Reducing MRSA is a top priority for the Department of Health (it is a Public Service Agreement target), for the NHS and for chief executives.

Sustainable improvement in HCAI requires board-level support and endorsement, with every trust having a prioritised action plan that is integral to its overall strategic direction. Achievement of the target will require the engagement and active involvement of all staff working at every level of the organisation, supported by the infection control team and identified 'champions'.

Reducing MRSA and realising the target is challenging.

Saving Lives was launched in June 2005 to provide the framework to achieve sustainable reductions in all HCAI. Since its launch, we have worked with Trusts that have made significant reductions in MRSA bacteraemias to understand which of the activities contribute specifically to this improvement. Going Further Faster is the synthesis of this collaboration and investigation.

The activities included will impact on other infections but the recommended actions will enable you to prioritise your effort and resources.



What are your goals?

Your goal is to:

- Ensure safe, quality, effective healthcare for patients
- Be clear about where to focus effort in your health economy
- Recognise the importance of reducing MRSA in terms of quality and the impact that HCAI has on Trust business and reputation
- Be aware of current performance and what actions are being taken to make significant reductions to HCAI
- Work towards a culture where there are no avoidable infections

The background features three overlapping circles. The largest circle is dark blue and is positioned on the left. A medium-sized light blue circle overlaps its right side. A smaller magenta circle overlaps the right side of the light blue circle. The text is centered over the overlapping areas.

Questions for
chief executives
to ask

- Where are MRSA bacteraemias occurring and how often?
- How do you ensure that your data is accurate?
- Does the Trust board understand this agenda and are they engaged in reducing MRSA?
- Who is responsible for leading this work and what resources are needed?
- How are you embedding this in your performance management framework?
- Do you have a non-executive champion for this?
- Is this integrated into your risk management and clinical governance framework?
- How are you engaging patients and the public to increase public confidence in your trust?

The background features three concentric circles. The innermost circle is a vibrant red, the middle circle is a bright magenta, and the outermost circle is a deep blue. The text 'Where to focus' is positioned in the upper left quadrant, overlapping the magenta and blue circles.

Where to focus

- Utilise your Mandatory Enhanced Surveillance (MES) data to focus and prioritise your action plan
- Ensure a system is in place to submit robust real time data
- Know where MRSA bacteraemias are occurring - source and specialty
- Directorate level performance to be reported to the Trust board
- Trust board to receive, review and act on HCAI reports



How to focus

- Adopt and implement relevant High Impact Interventions (HII) (generally lines or wounds)
- Monitor compliance to best practice using HII measurement tools
- Feedback and act on compliance data to improve reliability
- Screen and/or decolonise high-risk groups
- Reinforce the clean**your**hands campaign



Sustaining improvements

Drive improvement through performance management

- Place responsibility for improvement with individual directorates
- Treat each bacteraemia as a clinical incident and use root cause analysis to inform action
- Use data to inform action (balanced scorecard, compliance data)
- Use IPR/PDP and appraisals to increase personal responsibility for HCAI
- Ensure productive clinical engagement – this is crucial to improve performance
- Include objectives for improvement in job descriptions and plans
- Include in appraisal and reward systems
- Be ambitious - set a standard and achieve it
- Set goals for NO avoidable HCAI

Underpinning strategies

The background features a large, solid red circle at the bottom, partially cut off by the bottom edge. A bright blue arc is visible at the top left and top right corners, framing the central text.

- Effective and well-coordinated bed management systems
- Good antibiotic management and practices
- Board-level commitment and reporting
- Effective media and communications planning to increase public confidence



© Crown copyright 2006
275155 1p 20k May 06 (RIC)
Produced by COI for the Department of Health

Gateway Ref: 6508

If you require further copies of this title quote
275155/Going Further Faster - pocket guide
and contact:
DH Publications Orderline
E-mail: dh@prolog.uk.com