

07 November 2006

Gateway Number 7318

REQUEST TO DIRECTORS OF INFECTION  
PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN ALL NHS TRUSTS  
(INCLUDING NHS FOUNDATION TRUSTS)

TO BE COPIED TO DIRECTORS OF PERFORMANCE

Dear colleague

**Re: Submission of mandatory surveillance data for *Clostridium difficile***

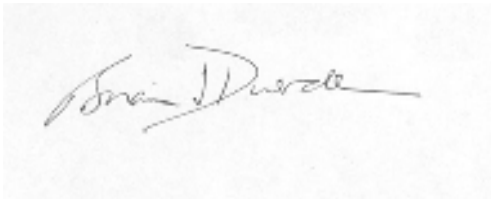
As you may recall when the mandatory surveillance data for 2005 was published in July this year, Andy Burnham, the Minister of State for Delivery and Quality, announced that we would be moving to quarterly publication of these data<sup>1</sup>.

We took this decision because our mandatory surveillance system has shown a clear need to improve the NHS' control of *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea and we believe that upgrading the level of surveillance with more rapid feedback of results will help reduce infections. We have been working with the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and intend to move to quarterly publication from January 2007.

To facilitate this change I would be grateful if you would ensure that your Trust's *C. difficile* data for the six months from April to September 2006 are sent to the HPA promptly. The Health Protection Agency need these data by **15<sup>th</sup> December 2006**. The number of cases in each Trust will be published by the HPA in late January 2007 but on this occasion, no information on rates will be produced.

Please contact Professor Andrew Pearson at the HPA if you have any queries  
(Andrew.pearson@hpa.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Duerden", is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Professor Brian Duerden  
Inspector of Microbiology and Infection Control

1

[House of Commons Hansard Ministerial Statements for 24 July 2006 \(pt 0166\)](#)  
(24 July 2006)

Email address: brian.duerden@dh.gsi.gov.uk