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Gateway reference: 17710

14 June 2012

Dear Chief Executives of NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts,

**MANDATORY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION SURVEILLANCE:
REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HCAI DATA CAPTURE SYSTEM (MESS)**

A new web based Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Surveillance computer system is being developed which will replace the existing MESS system used to collect the patient level mandatory surveillance data on MRSA, MSSA and *E. coli* bloodstream infections, and *C.difficile* infections. Expected to go live in April 2013, the new computer system will be faster and have new features which will give users improved facilities to input and manipulate the data more easily. It will also allow users to produce customised tabulated and graphical reports of local, regional and national HCAI data.

We now need you to nominate a local Implementation Lead¹ who will be responsible for managing the transition (including disseminating information about the implementation arrangements) to the new HCAI Surveillance computer system within your organisation over the coming months. Please send details of the contact for your organisation to the following e-mail address Mandatory.Surveillance@hpa.org.uk by **20th July 2012**.

¹ The Implementation Lead could be a Director of Infection Prevention and Control, microbiologist, epidemiologist, infection control nurse, IT person or someone else within the Trust identified as the best person to take on this role.

The first part of the user familiarisation process will involve a webcast on **Thursday 28th June 2012** where users of the new data capture system will be able to learn more about the technical aspects of the new system and its policy, medical and scientific contexts. Participants will also be able to provide feedback and ask questions.

If your organisation's IT systems do not support webcasts, there is an option to dial in as for a normal teleconference and read the presentations via the HPA website and email in questions. The presentations and screenshots used in the webinar will be posted on the HPA website after the event and the webcast will be recorded and put on the HPA's website for those unable to join us on the 28th June. Detailed user testing will take place later in the year.

To take part in this event, please register at the following URL:

<http://www.hpa-surveys.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=9452151>

by 27th June 2012.

Yours sincerely



Clara Swinson

Director, Health Protection

Copy:

Healthcare Associated Infections Leads, SHA Clusters