

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
28 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**REVIEW OF HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS -
FURTHER EVIDENCE FROM THE SOUTH TEES HOSPITALS NHS
TRUST**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representatives of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust to the Health Scrutiny Panel, in attendance at today's meeting to provide further evidence in the Panel's review into Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAs).

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Health Scrutiny Panel notes the evidence presented to it, in respect of the review into HCAs.
3. That the Health Scrutiny Panel asks any questions which it feels are necessary to ensure a full understanding of the matter and to gather sufficient evidence for the purposes of the overall review.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. Members will recall that at the last Panel meeting, representatives from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust were in attendance to provide an initial briefing into the topic of HCAs and to answer any preliminary questions that the Panel had.
5. At that same meeting, the Panel also agreed the Terms of Reference to direct the review into HCAs. A central theme of the Terms of Reference is to investigate the arrangements for ensuring the cleanliness of medical facilities at James Cook University Hospital.
6. It is to this end that representatives of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust will be in attendance at today's meeting, to discuss the arrangements for cleaning at James Cook University Hospital.

7. Members of the Health Scrutiny Panel may wish to explore what the current contractual status of the cleaning service is, the requirements for the tendering process if it is 'outsourced', the frequency of cleaning, the amount of cleaning staff available to be deployed and who has direct managerial responsibility over the activity of the cleaning staff.
8. It is anticipated that non-clinical staff will provide the majority of the information at today's meeting with reference to cleaning practices. Nonetheless, the Panel has asked that if possible, clinical staff could also attend the meeting to provide their own unique perspective on the challenge faced by HCAs and the action necessary to meet the challenges of HCAs.
9. Areas of questioning which the Panel may wish to explore with clinical staff could be whether the clinical staff feel that the Trust is or is not doing enough to combat HCAs, whether patients/visitors could assist more and whether there are any aspects of patient/visitor behaviour which are required to be challenged.
10. Following today's meeting, the Panel will be seeking evidence from other stakeholders, before engaging again with the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. No background papers were used in the production of this report.

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