

By Email

Nursing Directorate

**To: Directors of Nursing – Provider Trusts  
Medical Directors – Provider Trusts  
CCG Accountable officers**

Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London SE1 8UG

28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear colleagues,

### **Ambition to reduce healthcare associated Gram-negative blood stream infections by 50% by March 2021**

There is a national ambition to reduce healthcare associated Gram-negative blood stream infections (healthcare associated GNBSIs) by 50% by March 2021. These are devastating infections and often result in admission to critical care and in some cases mortality<sup>1</sup>. We know GNBSI cases can occur in hospitals however, half of all community onset cases have had some healthcare interventions either from acute, primary or community care. Therefore, we can only achieve the reductions by working together across the whole health and social care sector.

**In 2017/18 we wish to focus on *E.coli (Escherichia coli)*** as a one of the largest GNBSIs infection groups. This is supported by the Quality Premium for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs): [www.england.nhs.uk/resources/resources-for-ccgs/ccg-out-tool/ccg-ois/qual-prem/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/resources/resources-for-ccgs/ccg-out-tool/ccg-ois/qual-prem/)

#### ***Working together as a system – the ask to providers and commissioners:***

1. **Jointly discuss this ambition** and agree a reduction plan. This could be through existing meetings or local groups, such as Quality Surveillance Groups, or Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships.
2. **Jointly develop an improvement plan** by September 2017 that describes how your health economy will achieve a 50% reduction in healthcare associated GNBSIs by March 2021, with a focus on a 10% or greater reduction of *E.coli* in 2017/18.

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<sup>1</sup> a 30 day all-cause mortality rate of approximately 18%<sup>(Abernethy, J., Johnson, A., Guy, R., Hinton, N., Sheridan., and Hope, R. Thirty day all-cause mortality in patients with *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia in England)</sup>

3. **Identify an Executive level lead** who will act as the main point of contact within the Trust and within CCGs. Commissioning leads will have a wider responsibility to coordinate this ambition across the health economy.

We want to work with providers and commissioners to co-design the programme of support and to identify and implement good practice. NHS Improvement as the policy lead on healthcare associated GNBSIs are keen to understand wider work taking place to tackle E.Coli. Please could Trusts and commissioners engage by sending contact details to [nhsi.improveipc@nhs.net](mailto:nhsi.improveipc@nhs.net) by 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

4. **Trusts to collect key data:**

- a. From 1 April 2017, Trusts will be able to enter **E. coli data** within the voluntary risk factor fields. CCGs are required to collect this data for the Quality Premium.
- b. **Voluntary data collections for *Klebsiella* spp. and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*** BSIs have been enabled on the Data Capture System. Data entered by Trusts from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, will be used to determine baseline counts and infection rates. We encourage Trusts to support this voluntary collection by entering cases as soon as possible.

**Other support available to providers and commissioners:**

- **An improvement hub** - This resource brings together good practice from across the country. We will regularly add new tools and case studies, so please check back for updates.  
<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/preventing-gram-negative-bloodstream-infections/>
- **Performance Improvement Network events for health economies to share and learn from each other.** Feedback from similar events for MRSA and C.diff improvement work has been positive. We will be hosting similar events to support health economies reduce GNBSI. The first event dates are scheduled as follows. Further information regarding the event programme and how to register will be provided in due course:
  - 7 September – London
  - 14 September – Birmingham
  - 4 October – Manchester
  - 11 October - Bristol

We look forward to working jointly with you to tackle Gram-negative blood stream infections, particularly E.coli, across the whole health and social care system.

Kindest regards,



**Ruth May**  
Executive Director of Nursing, NHS  
Improvement,  
Deputy CNO & National Director for  
Infection Prevention and Control



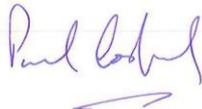
**Professor Jane Cummings**  
Chief Nursing Officer England  
NHS England



**Professor Sir Bruce Keogh**  
National Medical Director  
NHS England



**Kathy McLean,**  
Executive Medical Director, NHS  
Improvement



**Paul Cosford,**  
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**Viv Bennett,**  
Chief Nurse, Public Health England

**CC:**

**Provider Organisations:**

Directors of Infection Prevention and Control

**NHS England**

Regional Chief Nurses

Regional Medical Directors

**NHS Improvement**

Regional Directors of Nursing

Regional Medical Directors