

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HAND HYGIENE AUDITS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to hand hygiene audits in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Do your wards / departments carry out regular hand hygiene audits? If so, how frequently are these audits required?

Answer:

Yes, audits are carried out quarterly.

Question:

2. Are quality assurance hand hygiene audits carried out? If so, who carries out these audits and how often?

Answer:

Hand hygiene quality assurance audits are carried out by the Infection Prevention and Control Team at 12, 18 or 24 months as part of the environmental and practice audit, a risk based programme. Audits are also carried out by the Team as part of incident and outbreak management where required.

Question:

3. Does your health board have a hand hygiene audit target compliance rate (e.g. 90% or 95% compliance)?

Answer:

The compliance target is based on historical targets set by the Scottish Patient Safety Programme. A risk rated scoring system is used based on IPS audit methodology.

Question:

4. What are the consequences if any hand hygiene audit scores less than the target compliance rate?

Answer:

The focus is on quality improvement action.

- For results 76% and above there would be actions to address non compliance. Re audit would remain on a quarterly basis at a minimum or at the discretion of the ward manager.
- For results of 75% and below there would be actions to address non compliance and support from the Infection Prevention and Control Team and clinical management team. Re audit would be on a monthly basis until an overall score above 75% is achieved.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive