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To Chairs of NHS Trusts in England
Cc: Chairs of NHS Foundation Trusts
Monitor

Gateway reference number: 14373

Dear colleague

You will be aware that Government is opening up data to the public. The data.gov.uk site seeks to provide access to the wealth of government data and is under constant development. We want to work with the NHS and other organisations to make it better. This chimes with our drive to improve the information available to patients and the public about healthcare providers.

As a next step in the NHS' contribution, we are arranging for weekly data on hospital-acquired infections – MRSA bacteraemias and *Clostridium difficile* – for each hospital site, to be available on data.gov.uk. We will start this week, drawing from existing data collected by the (HPA). Initially we will use the latest monthly data, but we will move to more timely weekly reporting from the 5th July. The publication of the monthly HPA official statistics will continue alongside this new approach.

We know that much of the data is already uploaded on to the HPA system relatively soon after the infections are confirmed. Therefore, given that the numbers are relatively small, particularly in the case of MRSA, it would greatly assist if Trusts would review their existing processes and ensure wherever possible that cases are loaded by the end of each week.

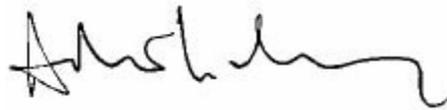
In order to increase access to the data we will be looking to explore the scope to make this more timely data available on other appropriate forums such as NHS Choices.

Although this change only relates to MRSA and *C. difficile* infections related to acute hospitals, we will be looking at the potential over a longer period to consider the non-acute setting and to include surveillance on other

Healthcare Associated Infections such as MSSA and *E. coli* Bacteraemias, so that information for patients continues to improve.

This letter is being copied to the chairs of NHS Foundation Trusts and the approach has been shared with Monitor. We will keep you updated as our plans develop.

For further details regarding this letter, please contact;
mandatory-surveillance@hpa.org.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lansley'.

ANDREW LANSLEY CBE