To  
NHS Board HAI Executive Leads
Cc:  
NHS Chief Executives  
Infection Control Managers

6th February 2015

Dear Colleagues

HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT SCOTLAND – REVISED HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED (HAI) STANDARDS (2015)

You will be aware that Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) published revised HAI Standards (2015) on Monday, 2 February 2015 (the link to the Standards is attached).

standards for Healthcare Associated Infection

These HAI Standards specify the minimum level of performance for healthcare associated infection control services and applies to all healthcare organisations and practitioners in Scotland, including independent healthcare providers, patients and members of the public. This document is mandatory for use within all NHS healthcare settings and should be adopted, implemented and deemed as best practice in all non NHS healthcare settings.

They are aligned with the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (2013), and both documents are key for healthcare organisations to adhere to, to ensure robust HAI practice and policy.

The HAI Standards aim to support healthcare associated infection services in monitoring their performance and driving improvement across NHSScotland. Each standard details what patients and the public can expect of healthcare services in Scotland following implementation.

It is expected that all NHS Boards will adopt the HAI Standards (2015) in accordance with their existing local governance processes. NHS Boards should therefore replace existing HAI Standards by 2nd May 2015. After this date, NHS Boards will be required to demonstrate that they have adopted the HAI Standards (2015) as part of their Healthcare Environment Inspections.
The revision of these HAI Standards has been a significant piece of work and will help us demonstrate our intent to drive forward further improvements to ensure a safer environment for patients, staff and visitors within our healthcare settings.

I should be grateful if you could cascade this information to all relevant disciplines and staff within your NHS Board

Yours sincerely

Prof Fiona McQueen
Chief Nursing Officer (Interim)