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**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**31668/22 To ask the Minister for Health the policy and process involved in managing hospital acquired infections; the policy and process for each hospital acquired infection for example, Covid, MRSA, CPE and so on; the circulars and guidelines issued by the HSE to hospitals on the way to manage hospital acquired infections; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The management of patients with possible or confirmed hospital acquired infections in acute hospitals is underpinned by the Acute Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Precautions guidance and supported by continuous local risk assessment and review based on available information, patient need and safety.

Please find links below to relevant infection prevention guidance developed by AMRIC (Antimicrobial Resistance Infection Control) team:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/hcai/resources/>

(Link to resources for healthcare workers and patients including patient leaflets, information relating to management of CPE and guidance on PVC/CVC in support of prevention of blood stream infections)

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/hcai/resources/general/>

(Link to more detailed guidance on infection prevention and control including latest draft of overarching guidance and review tools for incidents of hospital acquired infection)

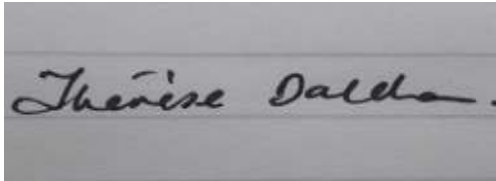
<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/guidanceforhealthcareworkers/acutehospitalsguidance/>

(Link to detailed guidance specific to COVID-19 and control of transmission of same)

The rates of the certain hospital acquired or hospital associated infections including *Staphylococcal aureus* blood stream infection, *C difficile* infection and *COVID-19* are key performance indicators included in the HSE National Service Plan 2022. Performance relating to these metrics is reviewed on a monthly basis at national and local level in accordance with the HSE Performance and Accountability Framework 2020. Analysis of incidence of hospital acquired infections and improvement initiatives associated with same are driven locally by hospital and hospital group IPC/AMS teams and committees with clinical leadership provided by consultant microbiologists.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Therese Dalchan" in a cursive script.

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Therese Dalchan  
General Manager  
HCAI AMR Lead | Acute Operations | HSE

CC: Liam Woods, National Director, Acute Operations  
Dr. Eimear Brannigan, AMRIC Clinical Lead  
Shirley Keane, AMRIC Programme Lead

