Infection prevention and control: lessons from acute care in England

Timeline of selected interventions to reduce health care associated infections and improve infection prevention and control, 2001-2014.

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Key	Launch of national campaigns	Recommendations	Mandatory
2001	First edition of epic published – *The epic project: developing national evidence-based guidelines for preventing health care associated infections*[i] Surveillance of MRSA BSI[ii]		
2003	Report of the Chief Medical Officer: *Winning ways: guidance to reduce hospital acquired infection in England*[iii] Surveillance of Glycopeptide-Resistant Enterococci (GRE)[iv] (became voluntary in April 2013)[v]		
2004	clean**your**hands (England and Wales) funded by the Department of Health; coordinated by the National Patient Safety Agency[vi] Surveillance of *C. difficile*-associated diarrhoea in patients aged 65 and over[iv] Surveillance of orthopaedic surgical site infections[iv] Patient Safety Alert issued, mandating placement of bedside alcohol handrub[vii] All NHS trusts to appoint a director of infection prevention and control[iii]		
2005	Saving Lives – including high impact interventions based on the care bundle principle[viii] National target reduction for the number of incidents of MRSA bloodstream infections by 50% over three-year period (April 2005 – March 2008) compared to the 2003/04 baseline data[ix]		
2006	Health Act 2006, requirement for provider registration with regulator, requirement for providers to ensure protection against HCAI, and new code of practice on infections[x] Visits by Department of Health improvement teams to acute hospitals[xi] Chief Medical Officer makes CEOs personally responsible for the accuracy of infection data submitted by their trusts[xii]		
2007	Introduction of bare below the elbows guidance[xiii] epic2: *National evidence-based guidelines for preventing health care associated infections in NHS hospitals in England*[xiv] Surveillance of *C. difficile* infection extended to all cases in patients aged two and over[xv]		
2008	Patient Safety First[xvi] Prime minister declared HCAIs a 'top priority' and ordered a programme of deep cleaning DH issued Clean, safe care: reducing infections and Saving Lives[xvii] Health and Social Care Act 2008: required registration with the Care Quality Commission: duty to protect patients against HCAIs. New code of practice[xviii,xix] National target to reduce *C. difficile* infection by at least 30% by March 2011, compared to the 2007/08 baseline data[xx]		
2009	Matching Michigan programme[xxi] Some NHS trusts participated in Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) schemes that made a percentage of their incomes dependent on demonstrating compliance[xxii]		
2010	Robert Francis Inquiry Report into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust (January 2005 – March 2009)[xxiii]		
2011	Surveillance of *Methicillin sensitive S. aureus* (MSSA) BSI[xxiv] Surveillance of *Escherichia coli (E. coli)* BSI[xxv]		
2013	Robert Francis Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust public inquiry[xxvi] Post-infection reviews for all MRSA BSIs[xxvii]		
2014	epic3: *National evidence-based guidelines for preventing health care associated infections in NHS hospitals in England*[xxviii]		

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