

From the Chief Medical Officer  
Dr Michael McBride



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

HSS(MD) 5/2010

**Chief Executives of Public Health Agency, Health  
and Social Care Board, HSC Trusts including NIAS,  
RQIA and the Patient and Client Council  
Director of Public Health and Medical Director, Public  
Health Agency**

*(for onward distribution to relevant health protection  
staff)*

**Medical Directors HSC Trusts** – for onward  
dissemination to all doctors dealing with  
infection control

**Medical Director Ambulance Trust**

**Nursing Directors HSC Trusts** – for onward  
dissemination to all nurses dealing with  
infection control nurses.

**Consultants in Communicable Disease Control**

**Consultant Microbiologists**

**Medical Director RQIA**

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: HSS(MD) 5/2010

Date: 29 January 2010

Dear Colleague

## **CHANGING THE CULTURE 2010: STRATEGIC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL; OF HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The 2006 *Changing the Culture* action plan has been updated by the Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Strategic Steering Group, chaired by Dr Elizabeth Mitchell, working in partnership with HSC colleagues. The new regional strategic action plan, entitled *Changing the Culture 2010*, is underpinned by the two core principles of the original *Changing the Culture* published in 2006, namely that infection prevention and control is an integral part of healthcare, and that it is everyone's responsibility. It is intended to bring together the priority strands of work that need to be delivered in order to accelerate progress in reducing HCAs, and will complement the Trusts' HCAI action plans.

*Changing the Culture 2010* has been approved by the Minister, who announced its publication during an Assembly debate on 11 January.

I would encourage all HSC colleagues to consider carefully the contents of *Changing the Culture 2010*. It can be accessed at [http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/changing\\_the\\_culture.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/changing_the_culture.pdf).

Yours sincerely



**DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE**  
Chief Medical Officer

cc: HCAI Strategic Steering Group  
DHSSPS Principal Information Officer

This letter is available at [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk) and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which can be accessed directly at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk> or by going through the HPSS Web at <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk> and clicking on DHSSPS.