

Chairman: Dame Deirdre Hine DBE FFPHM FRCP

C.DIFF INQUIRY SEEKS HELP OF THOSE AFFECTED BY OUTBREAK

The Panel charged with conducting the Public Inquiry into the outbreak of C.difficile in five hospitals of the Northern HSC Trust between 16th June 2007 and the 31 August 2008 is asking those who were affected to contact the Inquiry Office. This is the first stage of its work in gathering the experiences of patients, relatives, carers and staff. The hospitals involved included Antrim Area Hospital, Braid Valley Hospital, Mid Ulster Hospital, Moyle Hospital and Whiteabbey Hospital.

The Panel has explained on its website www.cdiffinquiry.org its approach to the conduct of the inquiry. It will not repeat the investigation into the causes of the outbreak reported in October 2008 by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA), but will explore how this outbreak of infection affected those who were directly involved. Its objective is to use this information to make recommendations that will help to reduce the distress caused by such outbreaks.

The intention of the panel is that those who contact the Inquiry office will be offered the opportunity to meet with them to give the information needed to complete the Inquiry in whatever way they prefer. This may be individually and in confidence, or in a

group, or a full public meeting. Arrangements will be made for meetings to be held either at the Inquiry's accommodation in Belfast or at a venue more convenient for those wishing to take part. The Inquiry would also be grateful for written submissions from those who would prefer not to attend a meeting.

Dame Deirdre Hine, Chairman of the Panel, said “We hope that anyone who was affected by the outbreak will contact us to help us to fulfil the task that the Minister has given us. We urge them to take this opportunity of telling us what happened to them so that we can describe in our report the impact of the outbreak. We will then make recommendations that will help the Health and Social Care Services in Northern Ireland and elsewhere to take measures to reduce the distress and anxiety caused by such events”

The Inquiry can be contacted in a number of ways: -

By Telephone – 028 90517250 / 02890517124

By e-mail: - inquiry@cdiffinquiry.org

In writing: - Clostridium Difficile Public Inquiry
Premier Business Centre,
20 Adelaide Street, BELFAST, BT2 8GB

Website: - www.cdiffinquiry.org