

**CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE PUBLIC ENQUIRY  
WITNESS STATEMENT**

**Mr Francis Rocks  
Support Services Manager  
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- Impact on staff of change in protocols

It is difficult to describe or to state how individual staff may have felt between June 2007 and August 2008 when Protocols and Cleaning frequencies were being reviewed continually to meet new guidance Trust Wide during the first months of the Clostridium Difficile outbreak, however staff did from time to time ask questions relating to the changes and their rational.

Examples changes are as follows

- 1) There were changes in detergents being used e.g. HAZ –TABs Tristel, Actichlor Plus,
  - 2) There were different cleaning steps introduced e.g. 1 and 2 step processes
  - 3) There were requests for areas and bed spaces to be fully cleaned twice or three time within a 24/48 hour period
- It was clear that staff did feel under a lot of pressure with the changes.

- Whether any additional help provided to your department

There were no additional resources provided to my department in Mid Ulster Hospital however

- 1) I did submit a bid for a response team in February 2008 which was unsuccessful as we had few cases of Clostridium Difficile in the Mid Ulster Hospital
  - 2) I utilised the existing staff into new ways of working and staff cooperated in working additional hours as and when required
  - 3) Staff also cooperated in working the days off. including weekends/late evenings to enable intensive cleans of all areas to be completed
- Your view on the amount of advice & Instruction provided to you and others

It was my view that I and my team were given a wide range of advice and instruction at briefings/meetings by Infection Control.

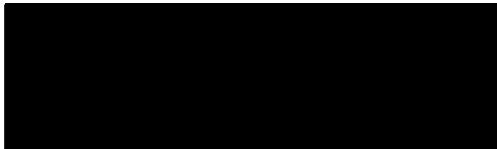
- 1) The content of the briefings/meetings related to the status of outbreak and action required to meeting the changing situation throughout the Trust.
- 2) Action required could range from additional cleaning required in some areas to changing an existing protocol to enhance assurance that appropriate actions were being carried out as required

- Impact of outbreak on other cleaning tasks in Mid Ulster Hospital

The impact on other cleaning tasks during the out break were as follows

- 1) There were reduced cleaning frequencies in non clinical areas such as on site Admin offices/accommodation
- 2) Non clinical Offices were advised of reduced cleaning frequencies and that there would be occasions that only their waste would be removed, they were also advised to contact Support Services if they had any particular difficulties

I can confirm the content of this statement are a true to the best of my recollection



Support Services Manager  
Francis Rocks

8/8/2010