

Vale of Leven Hospital Inquiry

Terms of Reference

- a) To investigate the circumstances contributing to the occurrence and rates of *C. difficile* infection at the Vale of Leven Hospital from 1 January 2007 onwards, and any increases in such rates during that period and in particular between 1 December 2007 and 1 June 2008, with particular reference to the circumstances which gave rise to deaths associated with that infection.
- b) To investigate the management and clinical response at the Vale of Leven Hospital to the *C. difficile* infection rates during that period and to any such increases, and the steps taken to prevent or reduce the risk of spread or recurrence of the infection.
- c) To investigate the systems in place at the Vale of Leven Hospital to identify and notify cases, increased rates of infection outbreaks and deaths associated with *C. difficile* infection, including the action taken to inform patients, their relatives and the public and the steps taken at the Vale of Leven and in NHS Scotland generally for recording such incidents including for the purposes of death certification.
- d) To investigate the actions of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in response to the occurrence of *C. difficile* infection at the Vale of Leven Hospital, including informing patients and their relatives of the risks of such infection and the measures that should be taken to assist prevention and control.
- e) To investigate the governance arrangements of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in relation to, and the priority given to, the prevention and control of the infection.
- f) With reference to experience within and beyond Scotland of *C. difficile* infection, to establish what lessons should be learnt and to make recommendations.
- g) To report by 31 May 2011 unless otherwise provided by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing.