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To: CCG Clinical Leader
CCG Accountable Officer

NHS England
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13/11/15

Gateway Reference: 04288

Dear Colleague

I am writing to update you on a programme of work NHS England is commencing to consolidate the lessons identified in the response to the Ebola outbreak. This is to ensure appropriate systems and services are in place for High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID).

The aim of the programme is to develop an agreed approach to managing the end to end patient pathway for known and unknown HCID (including suspected and confirmed cases); to ensure a sustainable response is in place; and that this is efficiently and effectively actionable, should the need arise. This work will therefore cover early isolation of suspect cases, safe systems of work across the NHS and access to appropriate Infectious Diseases facilities in a systematic manner.

I am delighted that Dr Michael Jacobs, from the Royal Free Hospital, will join NHS England on part time secondment for the next 18 months to lead this work as Programme Director.

We will be in contact with CCGs as part of the engagement programme to ensure that commissioners are central to the development of the programme.

The programme will provide a framework for defined safe systems of work, personal protective equipment, training and audit to ensure a consistent and scalable approach to future threats to protect staff and patients.

The framework will become part of the core standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response and will be subject to a stakeholder engagement process.

High quality care for all, now and for future generations

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We will update you in due course and provide you with the final standards and procedures for implementation as these become available.

If you have questions in the meantime please do feel free to contact england.epr@nhs.net

Yours sincerely



Dr Sarah Pinto-Duschinsky
Director of NHS Operations & Delivery



Richard Jeavons
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cc: Tim Young
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