

## **Press Statement**

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### **RUH Progress against MRSA**

Recent national figures published by the Health Protection Agency show that the Royal United Hospital (RUH) is making real improvements in tackling healthcare acquired infections. From April - September 06 the RUH recorded 26 cases of MRSA bacteraemias, a significant improvement on the previous six months when 33 cases were identified. Encouragingly since then further excellent progress has been reported with only 5 cases recorded in the three months from October – December 06.

Francesca Thompson, director of nursing at the RUH says: "The RUH recently implemented an MRSA Improvement programme which was so effective that the Department of Health asked the trust to share it with other hospitals. The key action areas include appropriate antibiotic prescribing, the prompt isolation of patients with MRSA and other healthcare associated infections, and ensuring high levels of cleaning including annual deep cleans of all wards.

"In December 2006, a DoH MRSA/Cleaner Hospital Team praised the progress made and cited the excellent team work, leadership and integration of infection prevention and control throughout the trust. Tackling healthcare acquired infections is one of our top priorities and an aspect of care which I have been particularly keen to champion. I know how very important this is to our patients and their families."

**Ends**

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