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RESEARCH NOTE 24

REWARDS FOR FAILURE: HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTIONS

In *Rewards for Failure: Hospital Acquired Infections* we use newly released data on hospital infections and present a list of the **twenty-five** NHS trusts (out of 167) with the worst *C. difficile* hospital infection records. We then compare those infection rates to the pay of their Chief Executives, taken from the Trusts' accounts. *C. difficile* was mentioned on **nearly 4,000** death certificates in 2005.¹ The best Trust on our list has an infection rate more than **seven times** the rate at a more successful trust such as Queen Victoria Hospital.

The key findings of the research are:

- The **worst** trust for hospital infections was Kettering General Hospital. Its Chief Executive, Julia Squire, was paid **£115,800**.
- The highest paid Chief Executive of the 25 NHS Trusts with the worst hospital infection rates was Paul Lilley from Gloucestershire Hospitals who was paid **£185,800**. Gloucestershire Hospitals was the **15th worst Trust for hospital infections**.
- Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells, at the centre of a recent hospital infections scandal, is the **21st worst Trust for hospital infections** and its Chief Executive, Rose Gibb, was paid **£150,000**.
- **Five** Chief Executives in the list of 25 NHS Trusts with the worst hospital infection rates were paid more than **£150,000**. **Twenty-one** were paid more than **£100,000**.
- As well as being the **24th worst Trust for hospital infections** University Hospital Birmingham is also responsible for the Selly Oak Hospital that is alleged to have **mistreated soldiers** returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.² Its Chief Executive, Julie Moore, was paid **£145,000** last year.

¹ Office for National Statistics, "*Clostridium difficile: Deaths increase in 2005*", February 2007, <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=1735&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=224>

² BBC News, "Best treatment pledge for troops", March 2007, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6439625.stm>



Matthew Sinclair, Policy Analyst at the TaxPayers' Alliance, said:

"When NHS Trusts do a bad job, patients can't go elsewhere, but they have to foot the bill whether they are getting value for money or not. Infections in hospital kill far more people than drink driving but hospital bosses responsible for these deaths still take home huge pay packets."

Sources and methodology

1. C. difficile rates are from the Health Protection Agency "Quarterly Reporting Results for *Clostridium difficile* Infections and MRSA Bacteraemia. November 2007: Table 2. *Clostridium difficile* annual January 2004-December 2006" and are the January to December 2006 rate per 1,000 bed-days for patients ≥ 65 years.
2. Chief Executives' total remuneration packages (including salary, benefits in kind and other remuneration) are taken from the NHS Trusts' annual reports. Where possible the 2006-07 report is used but two trusts had yet to release their annual report for 2006-07 so the 2005-06 report was used instead – these are marked in the table.
3. The most recent year's remuneration available was used. Some trusts had more than one Chief Executive during the reporting period, the one with the largest remuneration package was chosen.
4. Where a range of £5,000 or less is given (e.g. £35,000 - £40,000) we have used the low end of the range. Where a larger range is given we have used the mid-point.

Table 1: Chief Executive Remuneration and C. difficile infection rates for the 25 worst NHS Trusts

Infection rate, rank	NHS Trust	C. difficile rate, 2006	Chief Executive	Chief Executive's total remuneration, 2006-07	Source	Notes
1	Kettering General Hospital	6.78	Julia Squire	£115,800.00	Annual report 2006-07	Left 14 January 2007. Includes £800 in benefits in kind.
2	Hereford Hospitals	5.22	David Rose	£55,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	Left 3 November 2006.
3	University Hospital of North Staffordshire**	5.18	Dave Crowley	£145,700.00	Annual report 2005-06	2004-05 figure. 2006-07 report not yet released and consent to disclose withheld for 2005-06. Includes £5,000 in other remuneration and benefits in kind of £5,700.
4	University Hospitals of Leicester	5.06	Peter Reading	£175,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	
5	Frimley Park Hospital	4.91	Andrew Morris	£159,600.00	Annual report 2006-07	Includes £4,600 for taxable value of a lease car.
6	Barnsley Hospital	4.81	David Hicks	£160,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	Acting Chief Executive. Medical Director until 30 November 2006, on 1 December 2006 became acting chief executive. Includes £50,000 in other remuneration.
7	Royal Surrey County Hospital*	4.48	Nick Moberly	£30,000.00	Annual report 2005-06	2006-07 report not yet released. Appointed 2 January 2006.
8	George Eliot Hospital	4.47	Sharon Beamish	£70,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	Acting Chief Executive from 9 September 2006. Trust appears to have had five chief executives within this accounting year.
9	Milton Keynes General Hospital	4.41	Jill Rodney	£125,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	
10	Weston Area Health	4.15	Mark Gritten	£105,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	



Infection rate, rank	NHS Trust	C. difficile rate, 2006	Chief Executive	Chief Executive's total remuneration, 2006-07	Source	Notes
11	Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals	4.02	Martin Yeates	£130,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	
12	Luton & Dunstable Hospital	4.02	Stephen Ramsden	£90,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	
13	Bedford Hospital	4.01	Jean O'Callaghan	£115,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	
14	Dorset County Hospital	3.99	Jan Bergman	£115,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	
15	Gloucestershire Hospitals	3.91	Paul Lilley	£185,800.00	Annual report 2006-07	Includes benefits in kind of £800
16	Basildon & Thurrock University Hospitals	3.85	Alan Whittle	£130,200.00	Annual report 2006-07	Includes benefits in kind of £200
17	West Hertfordshire Hospitals	3.83	David Law	£145,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	Includes benefits in kind of £25,000
18	South Devon Healthcare	3.76	Tony Parr	£132,800.00	Annual report 2006-07	Includes £11,000 from 1 month as Foundation Trust and £800 in benefits in kind
19	Chesterfield Royal Hospital	3.74	Eric Morton	£134,200.00	Annual accounts 2006-07	Includes benefits in kind of £4,200
20	Royal West Sussex	3.70	Andrew Liles	£116,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	
21	Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells	3.69	Rose Gibb	£150,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	Includes benefits in kind of £5,000
22	Burton Hospitals	3.62	Paula Clark	£114,800.00	Annual report 2006-07	Includes benefits in kind of £48,000
23	North Bristol	3.58	Sonia Mills	£145,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	



Infection rate, rank	NHS Trust	C. difficile rate, 2006	Chief Executive	Chief Executive's total remuneration, 2006-07	Source	Notes
24	University Hospital Birmingham	3.56	Julie Moore	£145,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	Commenced office on 1 July 2006
25	Northampton General Hospital	3.54	Andrew Riley	£130,000.00	Annual report 2006-07	

**2005-06 remuneration latest available*

***2004-05 remuneration used as 2005-06 remuneration withheld*