

DOK 9
HEALTH COMM
MTG 4

Coleiro Anna at Parliament-MT

Subject: FW: hosp acq inf

From: Borg Michael A at MDH-Health **Sent:** Wednesday, 18 June 2014 12:38
To: 'etienne'
Subject: RE: hosp acq inf

Dear Dr. Grech,

I have asked my colleagues to update me on the proceedings of the hearing. There seems to have been a discussion about the rates of surgical site infections included in the PowerPoint, which I prepared for you. Apparently there were suggestions that a proportion of these were actually wound contaminations not genuine cases of infection.

I can assure you and the committee that this is not the case; all rates in the graphs were actual cases of surgical infections. Every case of surgical site infection that the Dept of Infection Control includes in our database is validated from a combination of clinical notes, laboratory investigations and initiation of treatment by the surgeon. Then, before it is finally filed as an infection, we pre-notify the surgeon so that he or she has the opportunity to inform us if s/he does not believe that this is correct. Such contrary feedback is very rare, showing that the sensitivity and specificity of our methods is extremely accurate.

Without in any way blowing my trumpet, I would not be recognised as one of the eminent experts in infection control, and invited to lecture throughout the world on the subject (the reason I was abroad this month), if my department made the basic mistake of being unable to differentiate between surgical site infections and wound contamination.

I would appreciate if this correction is communicated to all the committee members and added to any minutes of the hearing, since - as they are - they give a false impression of incompetence towards me and my department.

Many thanks

Best regards

Michael Borg

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