Date

Dear Service Leads,

Re: JAG assessment of endoscope decontamination

The specialty of endoscope decontamination has rapidly developed over the past few years, with many changes to technical processes, practices, and models for decontamination units. In addition, any redevelopment of decontamination environments usually has high financial considerations, and can take over twelve months to implement. Whilst an assessment of the decontamination environment for JAG accreditation will continue to be undertaken in line with Choice Framework for local Policy and Procedures 01-06 – Decontamination of flexible endoscopes (CFPP 01-06), the method of assessment will change. JAG recognises this field now requires experts in decontamination to provide individual, accurate and consistent assessments for safety.

Changes to assessment process

Working in collaboration with IHEEM Decontamination Technical Platform and the Institute of Decontamination Sciences, an audit of flexible endoscope decontamination facilities will take place by an Authorised Engineer for Decontamination (AED) as part of their annual review of NHS facilities. The audit tool, trialled over the past year, provides a red, amber, green assessment of decontamination for personnel, equipment, testing schedules, environment, maintenance & servicing and training & education. A copy of this audit will now need to be uploaded as part of the evidence for a JAG assessment visit, demonstrating the service’s compliance; or providing evidence of corrective action, or action plans as required.

The AED assessment can be undertaken up to 12 months in advance of a JAG assessment visit, and has no cost to NHS services already requiring an AED annual audit visit to endoscope decontamination facilities. For non NHS providers, IHEEM AED will provide the decontamination audit for a fee. Please contact IHEEM (http://www.iheem.org.uk/Find-an-Authorising-Engineer) for more information.

The AED audit has been agreed with the statutory national decontamination agencies and will apply to all JAG assessment visits within the United Kingdom from 01 April 2016.

What do services need to do?

Services with JAG visits scheduled before 01 April 2016

Services with visits scheduled before 01 April 2016 should prepare as usual for accreditation using JAG Accreditation Standards and Evidence Requirements for all Sectors as guidance. However, if the organisation has an AED audit taking place in advance of a JAG visit, as part of their yearly decontamination review, we recommend the AED/JAG audit is requested and is provided as part of the evidence for the visit.
Services with JAG assessments scheduled on or after 01 April 2016

Services with assessment visits scheduled on or after 01 April 2016 will need to ensure an AED/JAG audit is completed within 12 months before their assessment. This will be a mandatory piece of evidence and if not provided the assessment visit will not proceed. When planning for an annual decontamination audit; please ensure the AED is advised an audit will be required as part of your JAG assessment. If an organisation does not have an assigned AED, details can be found via www.iheem.org.uk/IHEEM-AED-register.

If you require any further information, please contact askjag.org.uk

National Job Descriptions and training profiles for decontamination staff and managers

The quality of job descriptions, training and career development for staff working in decontamination is variable around all services and sectors, which can result in a workforce supporting endoscopy that is not effectively trained, safe and competent. The Institute of Decontamination Science (ISDC) has developed a series of job descriptions which align nationally with the generic Healthcare Science National Profiles. They can be adopted by all professionals engaged in the decontamination of medical devices.

Additionally, appropriate training and various courses required for each role have been mapped against the job descriptions, linking to professional qualifications supported by the MHRA (Decontamination Certificate through to BSc in Medical Device Decontamination)

JAG will be supporting the use of these job profiles within decontamination services to ensure a well-trained, high quality decontamination workforce. Further details and copies of these documents can be accessed through the ISDC on http://www.idsc-uk.co.uk/education.php.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the changes above, please do not hesitate to contact the JAG Office.

Yours sincerely,