



UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations Quarterly Report for partner organisations (Summer Update) July 2016

This report provides information for the partner organisations supporting the development of SMIs and includes updates for the last three months (April 2016 – June 2016).

1. Website

The top five documents receiving the most on-going web page hits since the last quarterly report are:

[B 41: Investigation of urine](#)

[B 11: Investigation of swabs from skin and superficial soft tissue infections](#)

[Q 7: Good practice when undertaking serology assays for infectious diseases](#)

[B 57: Investigation of bronchoalveolar lavage, sputum and associated specimens](#)

[B 58: Detection of carriage of group B streptococci](#)

2. Priorities and Programme of Work

Work on the development of the user manual template is nearing completion.

This is now with the editor prior to issue. The first two modules, conjunctivitis and urine, to accompany the template are in development.

3. UK SMI Working Group Meetings and Steering Committee

Please contact the Standards Unit to request information regarding Working Group or Steering Committee meetings.

Past meetings:

Virology Working Group (1 June 2016)

Bacteriology Working Group (30 June 2016)

Future meetings include:

Chairs Strategy Meeting (3 August 2016)

Steering Committee (8 September 2016)

Virology Working Group (29 September 2016)

Bacteriology Working Group (20 October 2016)

National User Manual Template Working Group (17 November 2016)

4. Consultation

All [open consultations](#) can be found on the Gov.uk website.

Over the last twelve months, data have been collected via the online consultation form regarding where users have heard about consultations.

This question has been completed 77 times during the last twelve months.
42 heard about consultations from the Standards Unit bulletin
16 from a professional body website
15 from word of mouth
3 from the PHE RSS feed
1 from a patient/public website or organisation
The comments form has also been amended to allow comments from members of the public to be captured.

5. Recently Issued Documents

All three of the documents have been reviewed, reorganised and renamed in order to ensure ease of use within the typical work flows of a routine clinical microbiology laboratory.

[SMI B 11: Investigation of swabs from skin and superficial soft tissue infections](#)

[SMI B 14: Investigation of pus and exudates](#)

[SMI B 17: Investigation of tissues and biopsies from deep seated sites and organs](#)

The major changes are outlined below:

B 11 - Investigation of swabs from skin and superficial soft tissue infections and B 14 - Investigation of pus and exudates now include a section at the beginning of the document for key recommendations which summarise the key messages from the entire document.

B 11 - Investigation of swabs from skin and superficial soft tissue infections is the first UK SMI to be published with antimicrobial susceptibility testing and reporting table which recommends a minimum range of agents that should be tested for specific bacterial isolates. It also recommends the selective and restrictive reporting of susceptibilities. The aim is to improve the appropriate use of antimicrobials by promoting the selection, or suppression, of antimicrobials to ensure optimal use.

6. Lay Representation

In line with NICE requirements, PHE has agreed for the Standards Unit to recruit an additional member to each working group. The recruitment process is now complete and following induction the new members will be in post from July.

7. Staff Changes

Shahmeen Ali has been appointed as the new administrative assistant for the Standards Unit following the retirement of Shirley Boland. Ayuen Lual will be leaving the unit at the beginning of July to work for PHE Culture Collections. Interviews to find her replacement are due to take place in due course.

8. Authors

This document was prepared on behalf of the Steering Committee by the Standards Unit.

For any further information please contact:

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