

Catherine Donohoe, General Manager at Mayo University Hospital said, "We welcome this report and value the input from HIQA to help MUH meet the required standards. Urgent action has been taken to address the deficits identified by HIQA and significant progress has been made. We are committed to ensuring the hospital environment is clean and that this is managed appropriately and we immediately implemented a plan to address the issues raised by HIQA in relation to environmental hygiene.

"To address the issues raised in relation to environmental cleaning and ensuring senior management oversight, a schedule of auditing is now in place with clear levels of responsibility assigned which is monitored on an on-going basis. There is an overall hospital plan to address issues such as painting and general maintenance department by department and this is progressing well. To address issues raised in relation to frequency of cleaning, we have identified those particular areas that were not clearly allocated in-house cleaning services or contract cleaning. We have temporarily addressed these gaps with contract cleaning support. We have put in place a new electronic auditing system to assist us monitor the implementation of our hygiene standards and we have seen significant progress in audit results since July.

"Mayo University Hospital has put a number of significant measures in place to improve the levels of hand hygiene compliance in the hospital. We have increased hand hygiene training, particularly targeting those departments where improvement is most needed. We developed and implemented a 'Back to Basics' program in 2015 which encompasses a wide ranging quality improvement plan and, among other measures, ensures that there are identified trained infection prevention and control champions in each department, who are working towards meeting and sustaining the national standards in their individual departments. This plan was acknowledged as a positive approach by HIQA and it was recognised that it will take time.

"The Clinical Nurse Specialist for infection control vacancy is currently at recruitment stage and the hospital's first permanent consultant microbiologist took up their position this month and will be a key member of the infection control team. An awareness and staff training programme for specific infections has been implemented. With specific reference to the issues raised by HIQA in relation to the prevention of invasive aspergillosis, we immediately took action to put in place measures to address these risks, which was confirmed by HIQA on their re-inspection.