



HELICS Network Meeting - 12th and 13th December, 2003, Brussels.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The transmission of pilot datasets for aggregation and central analysis in a single European database was demonstrated.
- Data from 10 countries was used to create datasets for Intensive Care Unit Surveillance and Surgical Site Infection Surveillance. More data from other countries is under preparation and will be added to this.
- Interactive analysis of these data was demonstrated. Some of these data were collected before the agreed HELICS protocols were fully implemented, before the appropriate network data collection tools were available or before they were published nationally. The data cannot thus be used for definitive comparative purposes. However, tables of data will be sent to Network Coordinators for comments and agreement leading to publication of an Intermediate Report early in 2004.
- Representatives from 7 of the Applicant Countries were in attendance with a view to participating in HELICS.
- Elements of a HELICS Communication Strategy were agreed.
- A Complementary Study linking infection rates and quality of care was discussed. A draft Protocol will be issued for comment.
- HELICS members backed the proposed HELICS Database Management System. The development of the system will start now, permitting the first regular transfer of prospective data in July, 2003.
- Before the Network Meeting, a 2 day "Training the trainers" module for 48 attendees from 21 countries and was very highly rated on post course assessment.

Jacques Fabry, Project Coordinator.