



PRESS RELEASE

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New Consultant Microbiology Service

The Gibraltar Health Authority has set up a new Specialist microbiology service, which will be delivered by Gibraltarian Consultant Microbiologist Dr Nicholas Cortes, who is based in Hampshire.

The service, which will take the form of remote advice to GHA doctors throughout the year, as well as regular local visits and training for staff, will provide a facility that has never before been available to Gibraltar. This will include guidance on clinical practices and expert advice on matters related to infection, something that is increasingly important with the emergence of germs that are resistant to antibiotics, and advice on specific patients and conditions. It will also include support in developing policies and protocols and in improving clinical governance.

Dr Nick Cortes has already started his work and has for example delivered training to GHA doctors on a variety of subjects including antibiotic resistance and Ebola. His advice is being regularly sought by clinicians and the service is already showing real benefits.

Minister for Health, Dr John Cortes (no relation), said: "This brand new service reflects the Government's commitment to improving healthcare. Nick's work is already proving of great benefit. It is a tremendously important part that Nick will play in our health service, which will support the work of our health professionals, and of course and most significantly, benefit our patients and users of our services."