

The use of Forum Boards

A forum board was used during the development of model infection control policies to encourage communication and knowledge sharing between members of the Steering Group.

The forum board is an excellent software tool which can be utilised to support people/working groups with the view of:

- lessening the need for one to one meetings which at times can prove problematic because of work commitments etc.
- posting documents on the forum for comments, this process incorporates version control, which is an important aspect of policy development
- posting a poll in order to analyse information/gage opinion
- quality assurance being maintained as it is built into the software, therefore, information and activity can be monitored through this

On this occasion the forum board was specifically utilised to enable consultation processes which proved successful, at a time when emailing and postal mailing would have been complicated and time consuming.

The forum board utilised the software package phpBB which is a highly powerful bulletin board package. phpBB has a user-friendly interface which is simple and straightforward.