E-learning packages about the care bundles and asepsis were developed for clinical staff, with questions asked at the end of the training to reinforce learning. These highlighted the critical elements required for asepsis, and peripheral cannula, urinary catheter and central venous catheter care HIIs. All clinical staff are expected to undertake the learning packages if they care for patients with any of these medical devices.

One facilitator managed the development and publication of the packages, which take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete. To date, nearly 5,000 clinical staff have completed them.

Competency assessment documents were also developed to complement the e-learning packages. The ward sisters and/or clinical educators are responsible for monitoring their clinical staff.

Laminated posters were designed to reinforce the critical elements required every time clinical care was undertaken. These were strategically placed in treatment rooms where the majority of procedures are carried out.

Information for patients and visitors
The steering group worked with a design company to develop Saving Lives material for patients and visitors. A patient cannula card was designed to help empower patients to tell healthcare staff when their cannula site was painful or looked red. Visitor leaflets were produced, along with posters, in order to inform the public of the campaign.

RESULTS
The ward accreditation scheme and additional audits have assisted with monitoring compliance of the Saving Lives programme. Ward accreditation results have shown continuous improvement with scores for asepsis, peripheral cannula, urinary catheter and central venous catheter care and taking of blood since the launch of Saving Lives (Fig 2, p15).

One key element of the Saving Lives Programme is to prevent unnecessarily peripheral cannulation. This is highlighted in the e-learning package, in which healthcare staff are asked to question the need for a cannula to be inserted.

Trust peripheral cannula audits have shown a continued reduction in the number of patients undergoing this procedure. In June 2008, the total number of patients with cannulas in place on one day was 469, compared with 322 in January 2009 (Fig 3).

A DH team visited the trust in December 2008 and found 100% compliance with Saving Lives documentation. They felt that incorporating the inspection of peripheral cannula sites with the drugs round was extremely effective and have recommended this practice and intend to share the examples of our documentation with other NHS organisations.

SUMMARY
To date, the implementation of the Saving Lives programme across our organisation has been successful. In particular, we have reduced the number of cannulas inserted. We continue to work hard to maintain the momentum and provide the highest quality clinical care in our hospitals.

REFERENCES