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Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales

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Infection Prevention and Control Policy

Policy Statement

Public Health Wales recognises its duty to comply with recommended standards and guidance on infection prevention and control and decontamination. The organisation adopts an explicit policy of zero tolerance to preventable Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAIs), seeks to constantly improve service delivery, and places a priority on quality. Public Health Wales staff, irrespective of their role, must be fully engaged with good infection prevention and control practices. In order to promote best practice for those staff providing services to the public, the organisation is committed to embedding the standards stated within the three key Welsh Government documents:

- [The Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections 2014, hereby referred to as The Code,](#)
- [Health and Care Standard 2.4](#)
- [National Standards for Cleaning in NHS Wales \(2009\)](#)

In order to ensure that all healthcare staff within the organisation have access to consistent, current and standardised policies to support practice, Public Health Wales is hosting and utilising the NHS Scotland electronic resource, the [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(NIPCM\)](#)

This manual replaces the Public Health Wales Infection Prevention and Control Procedure document. Although responsibilities of individuals and staff groups are outlined in the NIPCM, additional detail, specific to Public Health Wales staff is provided in this policy.

Policy commitment

The Code (2014) defines HCAI's as "infections that occur as a result of contact with the healthcare system in its widest sense – from care provided in the home; to general practice; nursing home care and care in the acute hospitals; or is acquired by a healthcare worker in the course of their NHS Wales duties". This document builds on the previous strategy published in 2011 (Welsh Government; *Commitment to Purpose - Eliminating preventable healthcare associated infections - A framework of Actions for healthcare organisations in Wales*).

The Code identifies nine standards relating to Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) standards, to be met across the range of healthcare services provided by all NHS organisations, where applicable. Public Health Wales is committed to ensuring these requirements are adopted into practice within the organisation by all staff irrespective of roles or responsibilities. In addition The Code adds that these standards must be specified clearly within contracts or services commissioned by the organisation. Compliance with these standards should be evident to service users, visitors, and staff and to the Welsh Government (WG) including Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW).

In order to deliver the recommended standards of environmental cleanliness described within the [National Standards for Cleaning in NHS Wales](#) the Estates and Facilities department, responsible for the commissioning of cleaning services to all Public Health Wales premises, will use this document when stipulating standards and arranging contracts for cleaning services. This will be of particular importance for clinical areas within Breast Test Wales centres. These contracts also require the inclusion of compliance monitoring in respect of service specifications, standards and auditing of services delivered. Routine clinical audits undertaken by Public Health Wales staff will also measure standards of cleanliness using evidence based infection prevention and control audit tools.

Supporting Procedures and Written Control Documents

[PHW 28 Decontamination Policy](#)

[Decontamination Procedure document](#)

[National Infection Prevention and Control Manual](#)

[National Standards for Cleaning in NHS Wales \(2009\) National Standards for Cleaning in NHS Wales 2009](#)

[Medical Devices and Equipment management policy](#)

[Welsh Health Circular: Decontamination of Medical Devices: A development plan for healthcare organisations](#)

Standards for Healthcare Services in Wales

Health and Care Standards:

[Standard 2.4 Infection Prevention and Control and Decontamination](#)

Scope

The policy is applicable to all staff employed (or contracted) by Public Health Wales.

Equality and Health Impact Assessment	An EHIA has been undertaken
Approved by	Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee
Approval Date	16 April 2019
Review Date	16 April 2022
Date of Publication:	01 May 2019
Group with authority to approve supporting procedures	Infection Prevention and Control Group
Accountable Executive Director/Director	Executive Director for Quality, Nursing and Allied Health Professionals.
Author	Sam Ray Lead Nurse for Infection Prevention and Control

Disclaimer

If the review date of this document has passed please ensure that the version you are using is the most up to date either by contacting the document author or the [Corporate Governance](#).

Summary of reviews/amendments				
Version number	Date of Review	Date of Approval	Date published	Summary of Amendments
1	Oct 2015	31 Jan 2013	31 Jan 2013	Original document was approved by Quality and Safety Committee 2013
2	2018	16 April 2019	01 May 2019	Policy document reviewed and updated. The National Infection Prevention and Control Manual will be used as the reference resource for IP&C procedures.

1.0 Roles and responsibilities

1.1.1 Chief Executive

Chief Executive must ensure that:

- A robust governance structure for infection prevention and control is in place and reporting mechanisms allow for escalation of concerns
- Systems and resources are in place to facilitate implementation and compliance monitoring of infection prevention and control amongst all staff, including all agency or external contractors.
- Systems and resources are in place to monitor adherence to standards of Environmental Cleanliness specified within the National Standards for Cleaning in NHS Wales

1.1.2 Managers

Managers of all services must ensure:

- Staff are aware of and have access to infection prevention and control policies and resources, both written and on online
- Appropriate mandatory training for infection prevention and control is undertaken by staff
- Cleanliness within the physical environment particularly within clinical settings is monitored and addressed if inadequate
- Staff are aware of and adhere to exclusion advice in case of illness
- All audit requirements relating to infection prevention and control, are undertaken, results are analysed and action plans undertaken to resolve continuing issues.
- To support any infection prevention and control initiatives undertaken such as Hand Hygiene Week, Chief Medical Officer Bare Below the Elbow circular and the annual influenza staff campaign
- Appropriate referral of staff to Occupational Health service for vaccination provision
- Adequate resources in terms of e.g. equipment, PPE, waste management

1.1.3 Staff

Staff must ensure that they:

- Understand and apply the principles of infection prevention and control specified in the NIPCM and related policies
- Escalate any infection prevention and control concerns via the appropriate governance process
- Undertake mandatory training and any additional training required to ensure care is delivered in line with current National requirements such as Aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ANTT)
- Contribute to the audit process by undertaking audits, assist with analysis and be actively involved in implementation of planned service improvements
- Are up to date with occupational vaccinations
- Only practice within their agreed or assessed competency

1.1.4 Lead nurse for Infection Prevention and Control

Lead nurse for Infection Prevention and Control must

- Maintain an overview of audits undertaken within screening programmes and escalate concerns or risks to Executive Board
- Ensure clarity of local governance reporting mechanisms to provide assurance to Board
- Provide appropriate education and training for staff that is commensurate with their role and responsibilities. This will include access to the e-learning resource (level 1 or 2) and provision of bespoke face to face sessions in order to discuss specific infection prevention and control issues.
- Review and update policies/procedure documents
- Provide assurance to Executive Nurse and the Trust Board
- Promote and assist with the delivery of the annual influenza staff campaign
- Participate in National infection prevention and control /Decontamination forums to ensure Public Health Wales is represented in decision-making processes and is aware of National direction and strategy.
- Attend and contribute to internal infection prevention and control meetings to ensure it is prioritised when discussing service delivery and patient/public/staff safety
- Engagement with stakeholder partners such as Shared services and Health Boards/Trusts involved in the delivery of Public Health Wales services to ensure maintenance of infection prevention and control standards and identify any concerns.
- Provide expert advice to PHW teams

- Maintain and update competence in IPC (via training and education) to provide expert advice
- Surveillance of infection prevention and control incidents entered on Datix
- Promote and support teams to implement infection prevention and control quality improvement initiatives

2.0 Audit and Surveillance

Those Screening services responsible for providing direct care to service users within Public Health Wales have a responsibility to undertake infection prevention and control audits, utilising evidence based Infection Prevention and Control audit tools. This requirement contributes to the Health and Care Standard 2.4, to ensure appropriate management systems for infection prevention and control are in place. Results to be reported to the Infection Control Group and validation of audits will be performed by the Infection Prevention and Control Nurse. Surveillance is undertaken of Infection Prevention and Control incidents reported on Datix and those identified by clinical services i.e. Breast Test Wales.