



**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

**Public Board Meeting**

**29 November 2023**

**Item 14**

**THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION**

**PATIENT AND STAFF SAFETY –  
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION (HAI) UPDATE REPORT**

<b>Lead Director Author</b>	Emma Stirling, Director, Care Quality and Professional Development Sarah Freeman, Head of Infection Prevention and Control
<b>Action required</b>	The Board is asked to discuss and note this report.
<b>Key points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Infection Prevention and Control Programme of Work for 2023/2024 – continues as detailed in the report <b>(Page 3)</b>.</li> <li>• The Infection Prevention &amp; Control (IPC) team is currently monitoring the standard infection control precautions at emergency departments. Completion of the work is expected by December 2023 <b>(Page 3)</b>.</li> <li>• ARHAI Scotland (Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection) has undertaken a literature review on transmission-based precautions (TBPs) within Chapter 2 of the NIPCM. Phase 1 is completed with phase 2 underway <b>(Page 3-4)</b>.</li> <li>• The consultation period for Recommendation 1 of the Infection Prevention Workforce Strategic Plan, has been extended to 4 December 2023 <b>(Page 4)</b>.</li> <li>• Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% <b>(Page 4)</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Timing</b>	This paper is presented to the Board bi-monthly in the Scottish Government’s prescribed template.
<b>Associated Corporate Risk Identification</b>	Risk ID 4636 – Health and wellbeing of staff
<b>Link to Corporate Ambitions</b>	<p>We will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work collaboratively with citizens and our partners to create healthier and safer communities</li> <li>• Innovate to continuously improve our care and enhance the resilience and sustainability of our services</li> </ul>

<b>Link to NHS Scotland's Quality Ambitions</b>	The work and information referred to in this report supports the Service in its contribution to safe and effective care.
<b>Benefit to Patients</b>	Safe clinical practices, a clean environment and patient care equipment protect patients from the risk of healthcare-associated infection (HAI).
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) policies apply to all staff and patient groups. These are based on NHS Scotland HAI policy and guidance. Antimicrobial resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) conduct equality impact assessments on all HAI national guidance, policy and standards. The hand hygiene, Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) and cleanliness audit results reported are a mandatory HAI requirement related to national policy and guidance.

## Healthcare Associated Infection Report

### Infection Prevention and Control Programme of Work

The Scottish Ambulance Service's (SAS's) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2023/2024 was developed on behalf of the Service's Infection Control Committee (ICC). The IPC team is responsible for developing and facilitating the programme's implementation, but ensuring IPC clearly does not lie solely within the domains of our ICCs and teams. Everyone has IPC responsibilities.

The four outstanding deliverables from the 2022/2023 IPC Programme of Work have now been achieved. The Infection Control Committee and IPC team continue to progress the 2023/2024 Programme of Work.

### Review of Policies/Guidance

All IPC policies and guidance can be found on @SAS and JRCALC. The IPC team will continue to liaise with national organisations regarding changes to the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual and will keep those organisations and the ICC informed when making necessary changes. There have been no updates in policies and guidance since the last Board report.

### Programme of Audit

The National Cleaning Services Specification (NCSS) is mandatory, and IPC audits of stations and vehicles remain a priority as reflected in the Programme of Work 2023/2024. The comprehensive IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) is carried out every six months. Monitoring them and those of the NCSS is a fundamental element and priority of the IPC work programme, and we continue to maintain our target of 90%.

The IPC team is currently monitoring the standard infection control precautions at emergency departments. This monitoring includes emergency departments in remote and rural areas, the Western Isles and the Shetland and Orkney Islands. Completion of the work is expected by December 2023.

### Transmission-Based Precautions (TBPs) Consultations

ARHAI Scotland (Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection) has undertaken a literature review on transmission-based precautions (TBPs) within Chapter 2 of the NIPCM. Staff are required to implement TBPs, additional precautions, when caring for patients with a known or suspected infection or colonisation, in cases where SICPs (which are always applied to all patients) may not be sufficient in preventing the transmission of infection to others.

Their findings and recommendations in phase 1 'demonstrate that the current definitions of "droplet" and "airborne" transmission are not supported in the literature and should be discontinued and should be replaced'. The new proposed recommendation is that person-to-person transmission of infectious agents should be defined as transmission routes, air mediated (spread of infectious agents through the air) and contact spread (direct or indirect contact).

Doc: HAI Board report	Page 3	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 01/11/2023	Version 1.1	Review Date: Bimonthly

Phase 2 of the consultation with stakeholders is underway, which involves considerations such as the benefits, harms and feasibility of implementing the new findings and recommendations. Following consultations, workshops and meetings that are likely to begin in January 2024, phase 3 of the draft changes to the NIPCM will be distributed for comment with consideration of the educational needs and practical implications associated with the roll-out. The IPC team have also met with representatives of ARHAI to provide feedback and ensure that the process of change reflected in the NIPCM duly considers the unique nature of the Service as a care provider.

### **IPC Workforce: Strategic Plan 2022–2024**

Recommendation 1 within the Infection Prevention Workforce Strategic Plan asked that Scottish Government (HCAI Policy Unit) would develop a national core role descriptor for a Clinical Lead. Following key stakeholders’ sessions, it was agreed they should create role descriptors for other IPC roles within Scotland including Clinical Lead, Infection Control Manager, Infection Control Doctor, Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) and Infection Control Associate Practitioner/Support Worker. These role descriptors will support the IPC team with succession planning, career development and progression and support the widening of access to various roles.

The Service has provided feedback on the role descriptors and met with representatives from the HCAI policy Unit to discuss the Service’s specific requirements. We have requested that if the role descriptors are to be utilised in all boards across Scotland to ensure that the ICP role descriptor includes, not only nurses and other allied health professionals but specifically refers to paramedics and technicians. The Service also requested flexibility for requirements for registration within the ICP role. The HCAI policy unit appreciated the Service’s engagement.

The Scottish Government has agreed an extension to the consultation process with feedback with suggested amendments to be returned by 4 December 2023.

### **HAI and the Built Environment**

The Head of the IPC team and Infection Control doctor continue to contribute to the project to ensure that future aircraft design meets the IPC requirements based on airborne, droplet and contact routes of transmission, and compliance with the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual.

The IPC team implement the Healthcare Associated Infection System for Controlling Risk in the Built Environment (HAI scribe system) devised by NHS Assure which involves the IPC assessment of new builds or refurbishments. There have been no HAI scribe risk assessments since the last Board report.

Following the meeting with NHS Assure and representatives from the Service on 15 September 2023, to discuss future specifications and design for ambulance vehicles that may transport patients with high consequences infectious diseases, we are awaiting feedback from NHS Assure.

### **Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle**

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in April August 96.8%, September 96.7% and 96.4% October.

Doc: HAI Board report	Page 4	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 01/11/2023	Version 1.1	Review Date: Bimonthly

## Conclusion

The main components of the IPC programme and other projects continue to support the Service in preventing and reducing the risk of infection and providing safe and effective care to our patients and staff.

Doc: HAI Board report	Page 5	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 01/11/2023	Version 1.1	Review Date: Bimonthly