

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Public Board Meeting

**28 September 2022
Item 14**

THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION

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

Lead Director Author	Frances Dodd, Director of Care Quality & Professional Development Sarah Freeman, Head of Infection Prevention and Control
Action required	The Board is asked to discuss and note this report.
Key points	<p>Progress continues with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme for 2022/2023 (Page 3).</p> <p>The National Cleaning Services Specification is mandatory and a priority. SAS continue to maintain our targets of 90%. (Page 3).</p> <p>Monitoring of the Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) at emergency departments is underway (Page 3).</p> <p>Antimicrobial Resistance Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland have now transition to the National IPC Manual. The IPC team are in the process of reviewing IPC policy and guidance (Page 4).</p> <p>Overall compliance with the use of the PVC insertion care bundle is being consistently sustained above the quality indicator aim of 95% (Page 5).</p>
Timing	This paper is presented to the Board bi-monthly in the Scottish Government's prescribed template.
Associated Corporate Risk Identification	Risk 4636 – health and wellbeing of staff Risk 4638 – Wider system changes and pressures
Link to Corporate Objectives	2.1 A patient safety work programme must include ongoing work to prevent and reduce the risk of HAI for patients, staff and the public.

Link to NHS Scotland's quality ambitions	The work and information referred to in this report supports the Service in its contribution to safe and effective care.
Benefit to Patients	Safe clinical practices, a clean environment and patient care equipment protect patients from the risk of healthcare-associated infection (HAI).
Equality and Diversity	Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) policies apply to all staff and patient groups. These are based on NHS Scotland HAI policy and guidance. Health Protection Scotland (HPS) 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

Annual Infection Prevention and Control Programme of Work 2022/2023

The Scottish Ambulance Service Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2022/2023 has been developed on behalf of the Service's Infection Control Committee (ICC). The IPC work programme addresses national and local priorities for IPC and extends throughout the domains of health care, health protection and health promotion.

Progress on the IPC Programme of Work continues to be reviewed and discussed at each ICC meeting. Any challenges affecting this progress or the IPC's priorities (as well as changes in priorities) are brought to the attention of the ICC, Clinical Governance Committee, Board and Chief Executive. There is no significant risk to the progress of the workplan at this stage in the year.

Programme of Audit

The National Cleaning Services Specification (NCSS) is mandatory, and as reflected in the Programme of Work 2022/2023, IPC audits of stations and vehicles remain a priority. The Service is committed to achieving and maintaining consistently high IPC standards. Monitoring these standards is a fundamental aspect of the IPC work programme, just as monitoring the NCSS is a priority, and we continue to maintain our target of 90%. The comprehensive IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) is carried out every six months and continues to progress along normal timelines.

The IPC team's monitoring of the Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) at emergency departments is underway. This monitoring includes emergency departments in remote and rural areas, the Western Isles, and the Shetland and Orkney Islands. Completion is expected by December 2022, and this is well on track to be delivered.

Monkeypox Outbreak (UK) – Update on Monkeypox

As of Monday 5 September, there have been 90 laboratory-confirmed cases of monkeypox reported since 23 May 2022. As of 6 July 2022, monkeypox has been de-classified as a High Consequence Infectious Disease(HCID); work is ongoing within the Service to communicate this point and update the guidance to reflect this change. Monkeypox guidance was published by ARHAI Scotland on 6 June, and ambulance-specific guidance is hosted on @SAS and JRCALC.

Policies and Guidance

ARHAI Scotland has now transitioned to the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM). This will result in changes in most chapters of the NIPCM. The Service's IPC team continue to engage with ARHAI, and they have a representative on the National IPC and outbreak groups; moreover, feedback is provided to ensure that the IPC team can influence the change process, with due consideration of the unique nature of the Service. Since the last report, the Service's IPC team has provided feedback on the following:

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- An evaluation of the NIPCM COVID-19 Addendums and Respiratory Addendum
- A second literature review on water systems to inform Chapter 4 of the NIPCM: Infection Control in the Built Environment

The IPC team are in the process of reviewing local IPC policy and guidance. The priority over the pandemic has been COVID specific guidance, patient and staff, and management of staff with respiratory infection in the Service safely and therefore this remains a priority for the organisation. We are progressing with vigour to review IPC guidance that is now out with the review date and will have achieved a target 75% policies/ guidance updated by 14th September. The Infection Control Committee and Clinical Governance Committee will be provided with an update on the progress and changes made to IPC guidance and policy.

IPC guidance to be submitted to the Infection Control Committee on 14 September 2022 are as follows:

- SICPs: Supplementary Procedures Detailing Scottish Ambulance Service Specific Issues
- Station, Vehicle (Including Aircraft) and Equipment Cleaning Schedule
- Food Hygiene: Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Ambulance Service Premises

The NIPCM remains the core national guidance for all NHS boards, and all Service guidance/policy and standard operating procedures aligns with this guidance. We are in discussion with NHS Education for Scotland to develop a learning resource that is specific for ambulance service application in the NIPCM setting. The team are also exploring the new responsibilities for the board in relation to antimicrobial stewardship, given the significant number of new prescribers within the Service. This is being worked through and the implications are being prepared for the Executive team to review.

Air Ambulance Procurement Project

The head of the IPC team attends meetings on procurement. We are contributing to the project to ensure that future aircraft design meets the IPC requirements based on airborne, droplet and contact routes of transmission. In addition, we coordinate with the NHS Assure team of experts to review the built environment support provided to the Service in this project. The aim of doing so is to ensure that we future proof the aircraft's IPC requirements and compliance.

COVID-19

The number of COVID-19 cases has decreased over the past few months. Staff members have been asked to remain vigilant and continue with IPC measures to protect themselves and their patients on an ongoing basis. The IPC team continue to monitor trends in staff illness from COVID-19 to identify clusters of cases by the GRS. In addition, we continue to support the Ambulance Control Centre managers and staff to implement long-term IPC measures to reduce the spread of respiratory viruses and other infections in the workplace.

As of 12 September 2022, patient-facing staff are no longer required to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic lateral flow device (LFD) testing. If staff have any symptoms, they can take an LFD test to determine whether they have COVID-19. Staff are advised to continue to follow the Service's guidance on 'Managing Healthcare Staff with Symptoms of a Respiratory Infection or a Positive COVID-19'.

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The guidance on 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): Extended Use of Face Masks and Face Coverings in Hospitals, Primary Care and Wider Community Healthcare' was reviewed by the Scottish Government in July 2022. It is recommended that guidance should remain in place throughout the winter period (2022/2023).

A National Bulletin has been distributed to staff that highlights the recommendations, and information has been included in the Chief Executive's weekly bulletin.

Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in June 96.4%, July 96.3% and 96.5% August.

Conclusion

This report highlights the ongoing work to deliver the annual IPC Programme of Work and additional IPC activities. The main components of the IPC programme and other projects continue to support the Service in preventing and reducing the risk of infection to our patients and staff.

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