

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Public Board Meeting

30 November 2022

Item 13

THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION

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

Lead Director Author	Pauline Howie, Chief Executive Sarah Freeman, Head of Infection Prevention and Control
Action required	The Board is asked to discuss and note this report.
Key points	<p>A new system that will record vehicle-cleaning will be delayed until the start of 2023, as a result of an upgrade to the software used for the patient's electronic record. The Infection Control Committee (ICC) has been informed at the meeting on 14 September 2022. (Page 3). Staff will continue to record vehicle cleaning on the daily and weekly cleaning record sheet.</p> <p>An action plan for a review of Infection Prevention and Control has been developed. A target of 75% policies/ guidance to be updated by the ICC meeting on 14 September 2022 has been achieved (Page 3). has been developed with a wide range</p> <p>The IPC Workforce Strategic Plan has been developed with a wide range of stakeholders including the Service's IPC team. This IPC workforce includes antimicrobial stewardship teams, IPC team and elements of Health Protection where applicable in NHS boards. A final document is still to be circulated to stakeholders for feedback. The anticipated publication date is December 2022 (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 4).</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 Ambitions	<p>We will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively with citizens and our partners to create healthier and safer communities • Innovate to continuously improve our care and enhance the resilience and sustainability of our services
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

The Scottish Ambulance Service (the Service) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme for 2022/2023 was developed on behalf of the Service's Infection Control Committee. The IPC work programme addresses national and local priorities for IPC and embraces healthcare, health protection and health promotion. The IPC Annual Programme of Work has been approved by the Clinical Governance Committee and ICC.

Progress on the IPC Programme of Work is reviewed and discussed at each ICC meeting, and any changes affecting its progress, or priorities (as well as changed priorities) are brought to the attention of the ICC. The Infection Control Committee were informed at the meeting in September that Terrafix are in the process of developing and testing the new vehicle-cleaning checklist. The development was scheduled to be completed by August 2022 and the new product implemented in December 2022, but the digital team have advised that implementing the new system will be delayed until the start of 2023, as a result of an upgrade to the software used for the patient's electronic record. Staff will continue to record vehicle cleaning on the daily and weekly cleaning record sheet.

Review of Policies/Guidance

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 is 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 the ICC meeting on 14 September 2022. The Infection Control Committee and Clinical Governance Committee are provided with an update on the progress and changes made to IPC guidance and policy.

The National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) remains the core national guidance for all NHS boards, and all Service guidance/policies and standard operating procedures align with this guidance. The review of IPC guidance/policies content takes into account evidence-based practice as outlined in the *National Infection Prevention and Control Manual*, which is mandatory for NHS Scotland and includes standard infection control precautions, transmission-based precautions and healthcare associated infection (HAI) incidents and outbreaks. We also ensure that guidance/policies align with the *HAI Compendium*, which provides an overview of all up-to-date guidance from all stakeholder organisations. The policies are approved by the Infection Control Committee and, upon agreement by the members, are uploaded to @sas and then submitted to the Service's policy/guidance approval process.

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 element 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) are carried out every six months and continues to progress as scheduled.

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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. The work is on track for its expected completion by December 2022.

Scottish Government – The IPC Workforce Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan has been developed with a wide range of stakeholders including the Service’s IPC team. Its two main ambitions are recovering for COVID-19 and building on learning of the future IPC services/workforce. This IPC workforce includes antimicrobial stewardship teams, IPC team and elements of Health Protection where applicable in NHS boards. The plan will assess and address current, and futures demands to allow succession planning and sustainability to ensure safe and effective clinical service delivery.

A final document is still to be circulated to stakeholders for feedback. The anticipated publication date is December 2022.

Air Ambulance

The head of the IPC team, supported by the infection control doctor, continues to attend meetings on the Air Procurement project and are contributing to the project to ensure that future aircraft designs meet the IPC requirements based on airborne, droplet and contact routes of transmission.

The head of IPC and the infection control doctor recently met with staff at the Aberdeen airport to discuss infection control concerns in the transfer of patients with suspected respiratory infections, including COVID-19. We discussed the proposed changes to guidance, taking into account the risk of infection and lessons learned during the pandemic.

Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in, August 96.5%, September 95.9% and 96.3% October.

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.

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