

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Public Board Meeting

**26 May 2021
Item 10**

THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION

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

Lead Director Author	Frances Dodd, Director of Care Quality and Professional Development Sarah Freeman, Head of Infection Prevention and Control
Action required	The Board is asked to note this report.
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the pandemic, not all of the deliverables were achieved from the Annual Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2020/21. The Infection Control Committee met on 19th March and formally approved the transfer of the outstanding deliverables to 2021/ 2022 programme of work. (Page 3) The main aim of the IPC Audit programme is to maintain a consistently high standard of infection prevention and control in the Service. The audit programme was a priority for the Service throughout 2020/2021 and this programme has been completed as planned. (Page 3) The Service has undertaken a formal review of the Viral Haemorrhagic Fever guidance to ensure organisational capacity in the transfer and care of these patients. This guidance will include new and emerging pathogens including High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID). (Page 4) Overall compliance with the recorded use of the PVC insertion care bundle is maintained, being consistently sustained above the quality indicator aim of 95%. (Page 5)
Timing	This paper is presented to the Board bi-monthly in the Scottish Government's prescribed template.
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.
Contribution to the 2020 vision for	The work and information referred to in this report supports the Service in its contribution to the 2020 Vision for Health and Social Care in relation to Safe and Effective Care.

Health and Social 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 assessment 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

3rd March 2021 – 6th May 2021

Annual Infection Prevention and Control Programme of Work

The Annual Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2020/2021 focuses on the key delivery areas of the current delivery plan for antimicrobial-resistant/healthcare-associated infection (HAI) in the ambulance setting. This work programme was formally approved by the Chief Executive, the Clinical Governance Committee and the Infection Control Committee (ICC) in September 2020.

Due to the increased work as a result of the pandemic, the Infection Control Committee formally approved the transfer of these outstanding deliverables of the IPC Programme of Work for 2020/2021 to the 2021/2022 work programme at its 9th March meeting, and to make it a priority to achieve them by the end of the first quarter of 2021.

The Annual IPC Programme for 2021/2022 is compiled to ensure compliance with national and local requirements for the prevention and control of infection and the management of HAI. In addition, the work programme actively supports recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the preventing transmission of COVID-19. The programme will be tabled at the Clinical Governance Committee on 17th May for approval. An annual Infection Prevention and Control Programme is compiled by the Head of IPC. It is widely circulated to the Service for approval. Progress is reviewed and discussed at each Infection Control Committee.

Audit Programme

The Service is committed to achieving and maintaining consistently high standards of infection prevention and control. Monitoring these standards is a fundamental aspect of the IPC work programme. In the HAI board report of 31st March, we reiterated our assurance that the IPC audit programme of IPC monitoring is a priority and will remain so going forward. Just as monitoring the National Cleaning Services Specifications (NCSS) is mandatory and a priority, the comprehensive IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) remained a priority. We have completed this work planned for 2020/2021.

A programme of self-auditing for the Ambulance Control Centres is underway following the introduction of checklists that were completed following the outbreak of COVID-19. The IPC team will conduct quality assurance tests on the auditing processes and systems. The same quality assurance system will be used at the Mobile Testing Units.

Inspection Visits on New or Refurbished Premises

IPC inspection visits were carried out in new and shared premises with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service co-locations at Sighthill, Crew Road and Penicuik. A number of minor issues were found that require resolutions due to their minimal financial impact. We are partnering with the Estates department to resolve these minor issues. In addition, we have continued to comply with the Healthcare Associated Infection System for Controlling Risk in the Built Environment (HAI SCRIBE) regarding new builds and have provided the project team with the IPC requirements for new builds/extensions to the Newbridge premises.

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Policy and Guidance

Several alerts occurred via Public Health Scotland in February as a result of an outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in South East Guinea. At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that this outbreak is related to the ongoing outbreak of Ebola fever in the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to UK public risk assessments, the risk of an outbreak is negligible to extremely low; however, we must ensure that we continue to be prepared. The Scottish Health Protection Network remains suspended until a review of high-consequence infectious diseases (HCID) is completed.

The Service has undertaken a formal review of the Viral Haemorrhagic Fever guidance and action cards as an interim mitigation until the national review. One key improvement to the policy is to include HCID to future proof the Service against any new and emerging pathogens spread by airborne droplets and contact. A short-life working group (SLWG) was established in 2020 and is co-led by the Head of IPC with membership comprising a range of stakeholders. The SLWG will review the policy and ensure organisational capacity in the transfer and care of HCID.

Education and Training

The IPC team continues to support and advise Mobile Testing Units (MTUs). In addition, the team completed training for operators and supervisors in January and then April. The Ambulance Centres Control (ACC) new staff members will work on a selection of the modules as part of their induction into the Scottish Infection Prevention and Control Education Pathway foundation layers. A programme was established to roll out the same modules to existing staff. We have requested that all ACC localities name an IPC link person to support IPC development which has been actioned by the Head of ACC.

External Partner Engagement

The IPC team has maintained and contributed to communication channels internally and externally, for example, by contributing to incident support meetings with infection control managers, which are coordinated by HPS weekly, and by attending meetings of the National Infection Prevention and Control Ambulance Group (UK-wide). The HAI Infection Control Standards are being reviewed by Healthcare Improvement Scotland. These standards will not only be relevant for healthcare, but the revised scope will include Care Homes. The Lead IPC Advisor represents the Service on this group.

Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle

The table below show the number of PVCs inserted over and the compliance with completion of the PVC bundle.

Data from 01/01/2021 to 31/03/2021

Number of PVCs inserted	9, 519
Number of PVCs bundle completion	9,145
Percentage of Bundle completion	96.1%

Conclusion

This report highlights the challenges with delivering the Annual IPC Programme of Work 2020/2021 due to the ongoing pandemic. It demonstrates the action taken to mitigate the risk, including the transfer of deliverables to the work programme 2021/2022. The Annual Programme of Work for 2021/2022 actively supports recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing and controlling HAI.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to discuss this report.

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