

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

**Public Board Meeting**

**31 March 2021**

**Item 11**

**THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION**

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

<b>Lead Director Author</b>	Frances Dodd, Director of Care Quality and Professional Development Sarah Freeman, Head of Infection Prevention and Control
<b>Action required</b>	The Board is asked to note this update report.
<b>Key points</b>	<p>The Annual Infection Prevention and Control Programme of Work 2020/21 focuses on the key delivery areas that have been progressed in the current AMR/HAI Delivery Plan. This report highlights the deliverables on the work programme for 2020/21 that required to be transferred to the 2021/22 work plan. <b>(Page 3)</b></p> <p>The IPC monitoring remains a priority for the Service including the National Cleaning Service Specification (NCSS) monitoring, the IPC audits of station and vehicles. The monitoring of the Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) was completed and three areas of improvements identified. <b>(Page 3-4)</b></p> <p>The NCSS has been carried out quarterly since its inception in 2010 and large majority of scores remain consistently above 90% target. We have negotiated with the support of Health Facilities Scotland and it has been approved to reduce this from three to six monthly reporting. <b>(Page 4)</b></p> <p>The additional work activities, as a result of the COVID -19 pandemic have been highlighted in the report. <b>(Page 4)</b></p> <p>Overall compliance with the recorded use of the PVC insertion care bundle is maintained, being consistently sustained above the quality indicator aim of 95%. <b>(Page 4)</b></p>
<b>Timing</b>	This paper is presented to the Board bi-monthly in the Scottish Government's prescribed template.
<b>Link to Corporate Objectives</b>	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.

<b>Contribution to the 2020 vision for Health and Social Care</b>	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.
<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. 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

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

## Annual Infection Prevention and Control Annual Programme of Work

The Annual Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2020/21 focuses on the key delivery areas of the current antimicrobial-resistant and healthcare-associated infection (HAI) delivery plan 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.

As highlighted in the previous report, not all deliverables in the programme will be achieved by March 2021 as a result of the continued pressures experienced by the IPC Team due to the ongoing pandemic and associated workload. At the ICC meeting on December 15, it was agreed to identify the deliverables in the Annual Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2020/21 that required transfer into the 2021/22 programme. This was circulated to members of the Infection Control Committee (ICC) and no concerns were raised. Formal approval of the process will take place at ICC meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and the IPC risk register will be updated accordingly.

The IPC team have been working with regions and departments to produce a local reporting IPC template. These templates will facilitate the reporting of local infection control audits, outstanding issues and challenges to the Infection Control Committee on a quarterly basis. They will also contain the accompanying actions taken forward by the local management team to resolve IPC issues. The first cycle of reporting will be submitted to the ICC at the March 2021 meeting. This supports local ownership of IPC issues within regional and national operations functions. Further work is required to develop the template design to meet the needs for more specialist departments and develop systems to allow education or training on IPC.

The Service's short-life working group which reviews the existing plans and identifies areas for organisational capacity in the transfer and care of high consequence infectious diseases (HCID) and category 4 micro-organisms, such as viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHF) continues to progress work. The IPC Team will complete the review of the policy by the end of March 2021.

## Infection Prevention and Control Monitoring

The IPC audit is a priority and continues with the dedicated staff who carry out this work. The IPC audit programme of work, including the National Cleaning Service Specification monitoring, is mandatory, and the IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) continues to be a priority. The IPC audit programme deliverables will be completed and achieved as written in the programme of work for 2020/21. This will provide assurance around the safety of patient care practices and the cleanliness of the patient care environments and equipment. The team will endeavour to continue to engage with operational managers and staff to sustain and support further improvements in IPC compliance.

The monitoring of the standard infection control precautions (SICPs) was carried out from October to December 2020. This report is based on the auditing of ambulance staff and their application of SICPs while handing over the care of patients at 20 emergency departments across Scotland. The overall Service compliance is 95%. There areas of improvement in these audits are being progressed by the regional teams supported by the IPC team.

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## **Review of the frequency of the National Cleaning Specification Services**

The IPC team approached Health Facilities Scotland in December 2020 to seek approval to reduce the frequency of auditing of ambulance station and vehicles from quarterly to six monthly. These are mandatory audits for all NHS Health Boards and the request to reduce frequency was based on sustained compliance above the 90% compliance threshold.

These changes, have now been approved and will start in April 2021 auditing six monthly. Standard operating procedures are in place following the national facilities monitoring guidelines for ambulance stations and vehicles that failed to score 90% or above. Any sub-par station would be transferred to a three-month audit cycle until it achieves the national target of 90% for two consecutive audits. We will continue to work with Health Facilities Scotland to monitor any impact of the changes.

## **Additional IPC Work Activities out with the IPC Programme of Work 2020/21**

The IPC Teams continue to engage both internally and externally. The team will contribute to incident support meetings, which are coordinated by Health Protection Scotland (HPS) weekly, as well as attend meetings of the National Infection Prevention and Control Ambulance Group throughout the United Kingdom. This is a priority for the team, and they will continue to respond to all enquiries from staff and managers that provide timely evidence-based advice. National policy and guidance is frequently updated by Public Health Scotland and HPS and reviewed by members of the IPC team.

The IPC team has supported the regions and departments through staff contact tracing and the implementation of IPC measures. The team monitors daily, the data on the number of staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are displaying symptoms. The team take action to reduce further cross-infection and prevent outbreaks of infection by providing advice, support and guidance. The IPC team lead the meetings of the Incident Management Team (IMT) about staff cases of COVID-19 within the Service's regions and departments. These processes involve liaising with Health Boards, Health Protection Teams, Scottish Government and Health Protection Scotland.

The team have developed IPC audits and checklists for use in the ACC setting in response to the ACC IMT. This tool outlines the control measures in place that will reduce the risk further. Repeat audits, will be carried out with Health and Safety colleagues to provide assurance of processes and provide positive feedback for staff.

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

Overall compliance in the recorded use of the PVC insertion care bundle, is being consistently sustained above the quality indicator of 95%. Compliance for the months of December 96.3 %, January 96.1% and February 96%.

## **Conclusion**

This report highlights the challenges with delivering the programme of work 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 IPC audit programme continues to be a priority and this will be delivered. The Service continues to comply with National HAI standards and the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual. The IPC team will continue to monitor the NCSS and compliance with IPC standards in our stations and vehicles.

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## Recommendations

The Board is asked to note this report.

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