

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**Public Board Meeting****31 May 2023
Item 12****THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION****PATIENT AND STAFF SAFETY –
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION (HAI) UPDATE REPORT**

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Action required	The Board is asked to discuss and note this report.
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update is provided on the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme 2022/223 (Page 3). • Over the year 2022-2023, all IPC guidance and policies were reviewed, and approved by the Infection Control Committee by 31 March 2023 (Page 3-4). • The IPC team will be working with the regions to implement regional monitoring of SICPs (Page 4). • The IPC team continue to monitor the number of staff cases of Covid with another peak with a new variant emerging March 2023 (Page 4). • The Head of the IPC team and Infection Control doctor continue to contribute to the Air Ambulance Procurement project team. The IPC requirements were a prominent topic on the agenda of the meeting with the bidders (Page 4).
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	We will <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. 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 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2023/2024 was developed on behalf of the Service's Infection Control Committee (ICC). The Infection Prevention and Control Programme exists to co-ordinate and monitor the work of the Infection Control Committee (ICC) and IPC team in preventing and controlling infection through effective communication, education, audit, surveillance, risk assessment, quality improvement and development of policies and procedures. The IPC Team's responsibility is to develop and facilitate implementation of the programme, infection prevention and control clearly does not rest solely within the domains of our Infection Control Committees and Teams. Everyone has infection prevention and control responsibilities.

The IPC programme of work for 2023/2024 was presented for approval to Clinical Governance Committee on 15 May 2023. Prior to this it had been circulated for comment and approval to the ICC members and Senior Leadership Team.

Review of Policies/Guidance

The IPC department endeavoured to contribute to and facilitate the delivery of safe, effective care by providing and updating robust policies, guidance and processes to prevent and control healthcare associated infection and communicable diseases. Over the year 2022-2023, all IPC guidance and policies were reviewed, and updated by 31 March 2023. This was a review of eleven policies and guidance and the development of two new guidance documents on outbreak management and IPC procurement. All policies and guidance can be found on @SAS and JRCalc.

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 Service is committed to achieving and maintaining consistently high IPC standards. 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 comprehensive IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) is carried out every six months.

The IPC team have completed the monitoring of Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) at emergency departments. The service's overall compliance of 92% remains consistently above the target of 90% but fell from 96% in 2021. The IPC team have re-audited selected areas, over February to April where those scores were lower than in the previous year. There has been improvement in compliance with SICPs with a return to 2021 compliance levels.

Over the next few months, the IPC team will be working in partnerships with the regions to implement regional monitoring of SICPs which will provide additional assurance that the Service is providing a safe healthcare environment. Existing local regional governance process will be utilised for communicating results and supporting quality improvement.

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Respiratory Illness: Covid

The IPC team continue to monitor the number of staff cases of Covid. There has been an increase in November 2022 reducing early in January 2023 and another peak with a new variant emerging March 2023.

The IPC team receive daily alerts on the number of Covid cases and used a trigger of three cases at the same workplace over 14 days to prompt further investigation as advised by the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual. The team investigated 70 episodes of respiratory illness from November 2022 to 31 March 2023. Our intention is to seek further advice from Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) team and Public Health Scotland into assessing staff clusters in line with Chapter 3 of the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual. This data investigation is challenging with such a low case trigger level.

Air Ambulance Procurement

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. In March, The Head of IPC attended with other members of the project team the structured dialogue with each of the bidders. The IPC requirements were a prominent topic on the agenda of the meeting along with the IP&C requirements for the Air Ambulance estates provision under any new contract.

The IPC team are also represented in the national IPC and outbreak groups, to which they provide feedback to ensure that the process of change duly considers the unique nature of the Service. Since the last report, the IPC team have provided feedback to ARHAI or review on the following topics:

- Infection Prevention and Control advice for healthcare settings. (Monkeypox): Management of possible, probable, and confirmed cases.
- Literature review and practice recommendation: monitoring the effectiveness of decontamination of the health and care environment.
- Transmission based precaution definitions literature review.

Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in, February 96.1%, March 96.5% and April 96.2%.

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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