



**Scottish
Ambulance
Service**

University National NHS Board



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Public Board Meeting

26 July 2023

Item 11

THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION

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

Lead Director Author	Emma Stirling, Director, Care Quality and Professional Development Sarah Freeman, Head of Infection Prevention and Control
Action required	The Board is asked to discuss and note this report.
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Infection Prevention and Control Programme of Work for 2023/2024 and the IPC Annual Report 2022/2023 were approved by the Clinical Governance Committee on 15 May 2023• The IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) and National Cleaning Services Specification audits for ambulance stations are carried out every six months.• Following discussions with the Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) team with regards to COVID-19 cases among staff, the Service is excluded from national outbreak reporting that include any Covid-related incidents and outbreaks. They should be investigated and managed locally following internal Board procedures.• The <i>Scottish Healthcare-Associated Infection (HCAI) Strategy 2023-2025</i> was published on 19 June 2023. A review will be undertaken of the delivery plan and strategic goals, and a report will be provided to the Executive Team on the Service's position, including recommended requirements to ensure Service compliance.• Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95%
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 IPC team's responsibility is to develop and facilitate the programme's implementation, but ensuring IPC clearly does not lie solely within the domains of our ICCs and teams. Everyone has IPC responsibilities.

The IPC Programme of Work for 2023/2024 and the IPC Annual Report 2022/2023 were approved by the Clinical Governance Committee (CGC) on 15 May 2023. The Programme of Work had been approved virtually by the ICC prior to the CGC's approval, and this was recorded in the minutes of the ICC meeting held on 26 May.

It has previously been noted that four of the 34 deliverables in the IPC Programme of Work 2022/2023 have been fully achieved and two partially achieved. Two of the partially achieved deliverables concern the Terrafix system that will electronically record the daily and weekly cleaning of vehicles. We can confirm that the electronic recording of cleaning will go live within the next few weeks. The IPC team have commenced training staff in the West region so that staff may undertake local standard infection control precautions (SICPs) monitoring. The existing local regional governance process will be used to communicate results and support quality improvement. The outstanding deliverables will therefore be achieved by end of August 2023.

Review of Policies/Guidance

All IPC policies and guidance can be found on @SAS and JRCalc. The IPC team will continue to liaise with national organisations regarding changes to the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual and will keep those organisations and the ICC informed when making necessary changes.

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.

Respiratory Illness: Covid

The previous report highlighted that the IPC 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 (NIPCM). The team investigated 70 episodes of respiratory illness from November 2022 through to 31 March 2023. We have held discussions with our colleagues on the Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infection (ARHAI) team and have agreed on a pragmatic approach based on risk assessment due to the differences within Service care settings.

Doc: 2023-07-26 HAI report	Page 3	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 2023-07-26	Version 1.0	Review Date: September 2023

ARHAI have advised that the Service is excluded from national outbreak reporting and that any Covid-related incidents and outbreaks should be investigated and managed locally following internal Board processes. ARHAI will include a caveat in any national data and intelligence reporting to advise of this. It is anticipated that a minor update to the Service's Outbreak Guidance will be necessary.

Healthcare Associated Infection Strategy 2023-2025

The *Scottish Healthcare-Associated Infection (HCAI) Strategy 2023-2025* was published on 19 June 2023, supported by a launch event hosted by the Chief Nursing Officer on 12 June, which was attended by the Director of Care Quality and Professional Development and the Head of IPC. In essence, the strategy establishes a baseline for sharing the lessons learned from Covid and provides scope for recommendations for a broader pandemic preparedness work stream. This strategy will provide a platform for a two-year IPC strategy (2023–2025).

An oversight board will be established to ensure a collaborative approach to the two-year strategy that is founded on Health Board experience, up-to-date evidence and professional expertise. The Service will be represented on the oversight board.

A review will be undertaken of the delivery plan and strategic goals within the HCAI strategy, and a report will be provided on the Service's position, including recommended requirements to ensure Service compliance.

Air Ambulance Re-procurement

The Head of the IPC team and the Infection Control Doctor continue to contribute to the project to ensure that future aircraft design meets IPC requirements based on airborne, droplet and contact routes of transmission and to ensure that it complies with the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual.

Networking and Communications

The IPC team are also represented in the national IPC and outbreak groups which are co-ordinated by ARHAI, Scotland, to which they provide feedback to ensure that the process of change reflected in the NIPCM duly considers the unique nature of the Service. Since the previous report, the IPC team have provided feedback or review to ARHAI on the following topic:

- IPC-related aspects/impacts of the healthcare water system, which includes a considered-judgement review that outlines the quality and substance of the evidence.

The IPC team requested support for NHS Assure in partnership with the Specialised Operation and Retrieval team in regard to the design of future ambulance vehicles for the care and transfer of patients with high-consequence infectious diseases, such as viral haemorrhagic fevers. NHS Assure should be able to provide expert engineering and ventilation requirements for this specialised vehicle and the Service is awaiting a response.

Doc: 2023-07-26 HAI report	Page 4	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 2023-07-26	Version 1.0	Review Date: September 2023

Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in April 95.9% May 96.7% and June 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.

Doc: 2023-07-26 HAI report	Page 5	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 2023-07-26	Version 1.0	Review Date: September 2023