



**Scottish
Ambulance
Service**

University National NHS Board



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Public Board Meeting

25 January 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	<p>The Infection Control Committee remains on target to review and update Infection Prevention and Control policies/ guidance by end of March 2023 (Page 3).</p> <p>The IPC team have completed the monitoring of Standard Infection Control Precautions at emergency departments. The Service's overall compliance of 92% remains consistently above the target of 90% but fell from the score in 2021, which was 96%. The IPC team plan to re-audit selected areas whose scores were lower than in the previous year (Page 3-4).</p> <p>The IPC team continue to monitor the number of staff cases of Covid, as cases in the general public have been increasing since November 2022. One Covid outbreak was identified on 29/11/2022, which involved 9 personnel in Educational and Professional Development Department. An incident management team met, and the outbreak was brought under control (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.

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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 (the Service) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2022/2023 was developed on behalf of the Service's Infection Control Committee (ICC). Addressing national and local priorities for IPC, the IPC work programme embraces healthcare, health protection and health promotion and has been approved by the Clinical Governance Committee and ICC. Every quarter, a detailed progress report is presented to the ICC for scrutiny and assurance.

Review of Policies/Guidance

The IPC team are currently reviewing local IPC policy and guidance and remain on target to achieved this by March 2023. The policy guidance to be approved at the ICC in March includes the topics of outbreak management and the management of viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHFs), for example the Ebola virus.

The IPC team, along with the Special Operation and Rescue Team (SORT), Airwing, infectious disease consultants and representative of Public Health Scotland, will take part in a tabletop exercise to simulate the transfer of patients strongly suspected of having VHF. In addition, the IPC team and representatives of SORT will meet with staff of the High Level Isolation Unit (HLIU) at Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle to discuss the safe transition of the Service's patients to the care of the HLIU following the policy update.

The Service's IPC team continue to engage with the Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection team. 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 reflects a due consideration of the unique nature of the Service. Since the last report, the IPC team have provided feedback on the following matters:

- existing and emerging technologies for decontaminating the healthcare environment: wipes
- personal protective equipment for high consequence infectious diseases: question set and search strategy
- review of the National IPC Manual, Appendix 21: Covid-19 Pandemic Controls for Health and Care Settings
- evaluation of the literature review on the insertion and maintenance of central venous catheters

In addition, we have provided feedback to Health Facilities Scotland regarding the Domestic Supervisors workbook, which supports all new staff working in Facilities Services in demonstrating the required evidence to achieve the Healthcare Support Worker Induction Standards.

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 2022/2023. 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

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audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) is carried out every six months and continues on schedule.

The IPC team have completed the monitoring of Standard Infection Control Precautions at emergency departments, including those in remote and rural areas, the Western Isles and the Shetland and Orkney Islands. These reflect basic IPC practices that must be carried out at all times with all patients. This monitoring provided a welcome opportunity to meet staff at the point of delivery of care, discuss any IPC challenges and support their continued efforts to deliver safe care to patients. The Service's overall compliance of 92% remains consistently above the target of 90% but fell from the score in 2021, which was 96%. The IPC team plan to re-audit selected areas, over February and March, whose scores were lower than in the previous year.

Respiratory Illness: Covid

The IPC team continue to monitor the number of staff cases of Covid, as cases in the general public have been increasing since November 2022. One Covid outbreak was identified on 29 November 2022, which involved 9 personnel in Educational and Professional Development Department. An incident management team met, and the outbreak was brought under control. This was partly thanks to the quick action of the Regional Head of the Department, who closed the training facility as soon as the outbreak was identified. The facility was closed on 29 November 2022, and trainees returned on 5 December 2022.

The IPC team received 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. Covid requirements and restrictions are not what they were in 2021, so it is now more challenging to determine whether the source of the outbreak or infection incident is related to the workplace. We will continue to investigate cases to identify the source, engage with local team leaders and area service managers and advise on IPC control in the workplace.

The Infection Prevention Workforce: Strategic Plan 2022–2024

The Infection Prevention Workforce strategic plan was circulated by the Chief Nursing Officer on 15 December 2022. Its two main ambitions are recovering for Covid-19 and building on learning of the future IPC services/workforce. Its recommendations will be reviewed, and a proposal on the Service's way forward will be provided.

Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in, October 96.3%, November 95.9% and December 96.4%.

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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