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PUBLIC BOARD MEETING	25 March 2026
	Item 11
THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION	
INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL ACTIVITY UPDATE INCOPORATING HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION	

Lead Director	Emma Stirling, Director, Care Quality and Professional Development
Author	Karen Burnett, Head of IPC and Vaccination Services
Action required	The Board is asked to discuss this report.
Statement of Assurance	There are clear and effective structures and processes that achieve system wide compliance with mandatory and best practice standards in Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) and establish systems for monitoring outcomes which demonstrate improved patient safety and improved and safer working practice for staff.
Key points	<p style="color: red;">No data available for presentation due to timing of this meeting which precedes the next quarterly data reporting schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and Governance (Page 4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recruitment to IPC Department ○ Vaccination uptake for the Service is 30.8% compared with 25.3% in 2024/25.
Associated Risk Identification	Risk 4636 – Health and wellbeing of staff Risk 4638 – Wider system changes and pressures
Timing	An Infection Prevention and Control activity update paper is presented to the Board at each meeting.
Link to Corporate Ambitions	<p>We will</p> <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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the people of Scotland with compassionate, safe and effective care when and where they need it • Be a great place to work, focusing on staff experience, health and wellbeing
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).
Climate Change Impact Identification	This paper has identified no impacts on climate change.
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.



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**INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL ACTIVITY UPDATE INCORPORATING
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION**

**KAREN BURNETT, HEAD OF INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL
AND VACCINATION SERVICES**

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) is critical to keeping people safe when they are receiving health and social care. Effective IPC can help reduce the risk of infection and ensure the safety of people receiving care, staff and visitors. IPC is integral to quality health and social care delivery because anyone is at risk of developing an infection in these settings.

Good IPC practice can help to reduce the prevalence of infections that are associated with the delivery of care in hospitals, long-term care facilities (including care homes) and other care settings (such as ambulances, prisons, hospices and independent healthcare facilities).

Healthcare Associated Infections can occur as a direct or indirect result of healthcare and treatment including the environment or setting where care is delivered.

This report will provide an update on IPC Activity and will **not include data due to timing of this meeting which precedes the next quarterly data reporting schedule.**

SECTION 2: DISCUSSION

IPC standards are a key component in the drive to reduce the risk of infections in health and social care in Scotland.

Standards support:

- organisations to quality assure their IPC practice and approaches, and
- the IPC principles set out in the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM).

This report will be structured to follow the standard headings within the Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) Infection Prevention and Control Standards (2022).

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1. Leadership and governance

The Head of IPC and Vaccinations has evaluated the team structures and is currently in the process of recruiting a National Vaccination Operational Manager (Band 7), and an Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner (Band 6). Filling these positions will strengthen support and resilience within the specialty areas.

The Head of IPC and Vaccination Service provides updates on IPC activity to Clinical Assurance Group (CAG), National Clinical Oversight Group (NCOG), Clinical Governance Committee (CGC) and the Board.

Infection Prevention and Control Committee (IPCC)

The Infection Prevention and Control Committee (IPCC) convened in January with a quorum present. Attendance will continue to be monitored, and instances of repeated non-attendance will be escalated to the CGC via IPC Program of Work.

IPC Program of Work

The IPC Team's responsibility is to develop and facilitate implementation of the IPC programme of work and not operationalise. IPC does not rest solely within the domains of our IPC Committees and Teams. **No update on program of work is required at this time.**

Risk Register

No change to risk register is required at this time. There are 9 open risks on the IPC risk register (2 closed and 1 added): 3 high risks, 4 medium risks and 2 low risks. All risks were reviewed by the IPCC in January 2026.

2. Education and Training

No update on staff training due to timing of this meeting which precedes the next quarterly data reporting schedule.

All staff are required to complete core Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training, in addition to undertaking IPC role-specific learning where applicable. DL (2025) 26 outlines updates to the national framework for statutory and mandatory training for Agenda for Change (AfC) staff. As a result, the number of core IPC modules required for all staff will be reduced from four to one: "Why Infection Prevention Control Matters."

Compliance with core IPC online education across the Service is 59%. The Clinical Quality Leads are working in partnership with the Regions to improve compliance with all IPC education.

a. Respiratory Protective Equipment Update

No additional data available due to timing of this meeting which precedes the next quarterly data reporting schedule.

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The Face Fit testers are working alongside operational teams within regions to improve uptake through a quality improvement project. This piece of work is evolving and in its early stages.

3. Communication

The IPC team regularly reviews the @SAS IPC page to ensure that staff have access to up-to-date and accurate information. A new IPC page is being developed with the Head of IPC and Vaccinations and the Web & Intranet Analyst Developer.

a. Staff Vaccinations

The last data publication was 3rd February with uptake showing as 30.8% compared with 25.3% in 2024/25. No further updates will be published from PHS as there have only been a small number of staff being vaccinated for the last few weeks.

b. National Directives/ Publications

A full review of documents will be undertaken and presented to the IPC Committee in April.

4. Assurance and monitoring systems

No additional data available due to timing of this meeting which precedes the next quarterly data reporting schedule.

5. Optimising antimicrobial use

No additional data available due to timing of this meeting which precedes the next quarterly data reporting schedule.

6. Infection Prevention and control policies, procedures and guidance

The business continuity plan addressing the potential loss of IPC staff was written approved at the January IPCC.

7. Clean and Safe Care Equipment

No additional data available due to timing of this meeting which precedes the next quarterly data reporting schedule.

8. The Built Environment

No building work requiring an HAI SCRIBE has been identified to the IPC team through the Property Forum Group.

The Head of IPC and Vaccinations is a member of the Glasgow South Station Rebuild Project, which is currently in the development phase.

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a. Water Safety

The Water Safety Group provide quarterly updates to the IPCC. No meetings have been scheduled January – March due to the unavailability of the authorising engineer.

9. Acquisition and provision of equipment

No requests for patient equipment requests have been made to the IPC team for review during this review period.

SECTION 3: RECOMMENDATION

The Board is invited to discuss and note the IPC activity outlined in the paper.

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