

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Public Board Meeting

**27 July 2022
Item 10**

THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION

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

Lead Director Author	Frances Dodd, Director of 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 Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme for 2022/2023 has been approved by the Clinical Governance Committee and Infection Control Committee (Page 3).</p> <p>The National Cleaning Services Specification is mandatory and a priority. SAS continue to maintain our targets of 90% (Page 3).</p> <p>An outbreak of monkeypox was declared on 6 May 2022, representing for the first time that the virus has passed from person to person in the UK (Page 3-4).</p> <p>Antimicrobial Resistance Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland are now transitioning from the winter respiratory IPC addendum to the National IPC Manual</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.
Associated Corporate Risk Identification	Risk 4636 – health and wellbeing of staff Risk 4638 – Wider system changes and pressures
Link to Corporate Objectives	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.

Contribution to the 2020 vision for Health and Social Care	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.
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. Health Protection Scotland (HPS) 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

Annual Infection Prevention and Control Programme of Work 2022/2023

The Scottish Ambulance Service Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme for 2022/2023 has been developed on behalf of the Service's Infection Control Committee. The IPC work programme addresses national and local priorities for IPC and extends throughout health care, health protection and health promotion. The IPC Annual Programme of Work have been approved by the Clinical Governance Committee (CGC) and Infection Control Committee (ICC).

Progress on the IPC programme of work is reviewed and discussed at each ICC meeting, and any challenges affecting the progress or priorities (as well as changed priorities) are brought to the attention of the ICC, CGC, Board and Chief Executive. The Head of IPC meets regularly with the Director for Care Quality and Professional Development (the executive lead with accountability for Healthcare Associated Infection) to ensure the progress of the IPC and the delivery of agreed outcomes.

Programme of Audit

The National Cleaning Services Specification (NCCS) are 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 standards of IPC. Monitoring these standards is a fundamental aspect of the IPC work programme, just as monitoring the NCCS is mandatory and a priority, and we continue to maintain our targets of 90%. The comprehensive IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) are carried out every six months.

The NCCS and RIVO audit programme continue to progress along normal timelines, and a successful candidate has been identified for the vacant post, with a start date of 1 August 2022. Apart from one month (February), this year, there will be a full complement of team members for the first time since March 2021.

Monkeypox Outbreak (UK)

An outbreak of monkeypox was declared on 6 May, representing the first time that the virus has passed from person to person in the UK when travel links to an endemic country have not been identified. Monkeypox was initially categorised as a High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) and therefore merited a highly precautionary approach more in line with the management of a viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) as advised by Antimicrobial Resistance Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland and Public Health Scotland. Two national bulletins (13 and 25 May) were circulated to staff to update them on the management of monkeypox, IPC measures and the Service's response to the outbreak.

At the start of the outbreak, a significant number of meetings took place across diverse organisations that focused on management and IPC guidance. These aimed to agree upon evidence-based reduction of infections and a highly precautionary approach. Monkeypox guidance was published by ARHAI Scotland by 6 June. Upon the reception of the ARHAI guidance, it was reviewed, and a new response model was adopted by the Special Operations Response Team. This became operational on 13 June 2022 following approval by IPC and the health and safety team. However, because of the ongoing HCID status and

Doc: HAI Board report	Page 3	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 2022-07-27	Version 0.1	Review Date: N/A

hazard group 3 categorisation, waste management was challenging. On 29 June 2022 the Department for Transport re-categorised the carriage of monkeypox waste from category A to category B. This means, waste generated when caring for a patient with known or suspected monkeypox can be disposed of in the routine clinical waste. As of the 6 July 2022, Monkeypox has been de-classified as an HCID, work is ongoing within the Service to communicate this and update the guidance to reflect this change.

Policies and Guidance

ARHAI Scotland are now transitioning from the winter respiratory IPC addendum to the National IPC Manual (NIPCM). This will result in changes in most chapters of the NIPCM. The Service's IPC team continue to engage with ARHAI, have a representative on the National IPC and outbreak groups and provide feedback to ensure that the IPC team influence the change process, taking due cognisance of the unique nature of the service. Since the last report, the Service's IPC team provided feedback on:

- the transition from winter respiratory guidance to the NIPCM
- literature review on the Standard Infection Control and Transmission Based Precautions: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Gloves
- quality improvement tools
 - literature review on Insertion and Maintenance of Peripheral Venous Catheters
 - literature review on Ventilation-Associated Pneumonia
- literature review on water systems to inform Chapter 4 of the NIPCM: Infection Control in the Built Environment
- a question set and search strategy for hand hygiene products

ARHAI Scotland have started the process of developing annual respiratory season IPC guidance for use during periods with a high prevalence of respiratory viruses that may impact health and care services. To facilitate this evaluation, ARHAI Scotland have developed a survey to be completed by all NHS boards. The Service's IPC team will remain in a good position to support and influence this guidance.

Air Ambulance Procurement Project

The head of the IPC team, supported by the infection control doctor, attend the meetings on procurement. A number of meetings occurred in June. Attendance has been challenging, as the pace of the project is increasing. Nevertheless, we are contributing to the project to ensure that future aircraft design meet the IPC requirements based on airborne, droplet and contact routes of transmission.

COVID-19

As in other NHS boards, cases of COVID-19 have increased over the past few months, and early indications suggest that the UK may see the emergence of a new sub-variant of COVID-19. Staff have been asked to remain vigilant and continue with IPC measures to continue to protect themselves and their patients. The IPC team continue to monitor trends in staff illness due to COVID-19 to identify clusters of cases by the GRS. Also, we have the support of the Ambulance Control Centre, along with other Health and Safety colleagues, to implement long-term IPC measures to reduce the spread of respiratory viruses in the workplace.

Doc: HAI Board report	Page 4	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 2022-07-27	Version 0.1	Review Date: N/A

The IPC team will update the guidance on decontamination and cleaning requirements as a result of outbreaks that are identified or linked to the workplace, taking into account the national guidance as seen in the transition to the NIPCM and putting triggers and escalation plans in place to ensure that, going forward, we will continue to align with the developing evidence base.

Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in April 96.6%, May 96.4% and June 96.4%.

Conclusion

This report highlights the ongoing work to deliver the annual IPC Programme of Work, the outbreak of monkeypox and emergence of new variants, and it gives a summary of matters discussed at the ICC. The main components of the IPC programme and other projects continue to support the Service in preventing and reducing the risk of infection to our patients and staff.

Doc: HAI Board report	Page 5	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 2022-07-27	Version 0.1	Review Date: N/A