

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Public Board Meeting

30 March 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 this report.
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update is provided on the Annual Infection Prevention and Control Report outstanding deliverables. Infection Prevention and Control Audit activity remains priority (page 3). • The challenge on the horizon will be moving to a 'business as usual' approach in which Covid-19 measures will co-exist with the national guidance (page 3). • NHS Scotland's National Cleaning Services Specification (NCSS) continues to exceed the 90% target for cleanliness. (page 4). • Overall compliance with the use of the PVC insertion care bundle is being consistently sustained above the quality indicator aim of 95% (page 4).
Timing	This paper is presented to the Board bi-monthly in the Scottish Government's prescribed template.
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).

<p>Equality and Diversity</p>	<p>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.</p>
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Healthcare Associated Infection Report

Annual Infection Prevention and Control Programme of Work

The annual infection prevention and control (IPC) programme for 2021/2022 co-ordinates and monitors 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 work programme addresses the national and local priorities for IPC and embraces healthcare, health protection and health promotion.

While it is the IPC team's responsibility to develop and facilitate the implementation of the programme, IPC clearly does not rest solely within the domains of our ICC and teams. Everyone has IPC responsibilities. Service users, who depend on the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) require all of us to follow best practices in IPC. The ICC and team will co-ordinate the delivery of this extensive body of work. All those involved in the delivery of healthcare should participate in this programme through their own IPC actions, whether providing, or receiving healthcare.

The operational delivery of the programme is regularly monitored and reviewed through the detailed work plan presented quarterly to the ICC, as well as through the update provided to the Clinical Governance Committee and the Board. Any risks associated with the delivery of the programme or with amendments to the content must be brought to the attention of the ICC, Clinical Governance Committee and Board. As priorities have changed over the course of a year, it may be necessary to re-prioritise and transfer to subsequent years some programme areas, which could impact forecasted completion dates.

The IPC programme for 2021/2022 contains thirty deliverables divided into seven delivery areas. Twenty three of the deliverables have been achieved, five of the deliverables have been partially achieved (amber risk category), and mitigation measures have been implemented. Two of the deliverables remain in the red risk category, as they have not been achieved due to operational pressure and Resource Escalation Action Plan 4 (REAP 4). Both of these entail working with operational teams in the North, East and West Regions, as well as with the Care Quality Leads and mobile testing unit to develop new ways of working and to strengthen ownership of IPC locally. Mitigations have been implemented to ensure that there is no impact on patient or staff safety. This was deemed an ambitious deliverable for 2021/2022 and will continue to be vigorously pursued with support from the directors as part of the 2022/2023 work plan.

Covid-19 Pandemic

The emergence of the Omicron variant has impacted the team's workload in the latter part of 2021 and early 2022. At that time, the IPC team was still working at reduced capacity and facing ongoing challenges associated with changes in national guidance at the public level, but not healthcare.

The next challenge on the horizon will be moving to a 'business as usual' approach in which Covid-19 measures will co-exist with the national IPC and with standard infection control precautions. The IPC team are liaising with the Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections (ARHAI) team along with other NHS boards to determine what that agenda may involve while ensuring a safe environment for patients and staff.

Doc: 2022-03-30 HAI update Board	Page 3	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 2022-03-30	Version 1.3	Review Date: May 2022

Policy and Guidance

On 27 August 2021, the Service implemented guidance from the Scottish Government that allows those who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 to return to work with no period of isolation, provided a specific list of conditions and clinical safeguards are in place. Due to the Omicron variant, this guidance was updated on 9 December 2021, 17 December 2021, 6 January 2022, 27 January 2022 and 23 February 2022. The SAS's guidance was updated to reflect the changes to the national policy and is posted on @SAS. We worked in partnership with National Services Scotland Occupational Health Leads Nursing Advisors to provide clarity to our staff on this complex guidance.

Due to a reduction of Covid-19 cases in the wider community, healthcare workers have been asked to return to pre-Omicron levels of asymptomatic Covid-19 testing. This can revert to twice weekly testing. Communications were sent to staff to inform them of this change.

Audit Programme

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 National Cleaning Services Specifications (NCSS) is mandatory and a priority. The comprehensive IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) will remain a priority.

The Service's overall and regional/sub-regional compliance with NHS Scotland's National Cleaning Services Specification (NCSS) continues to exceed the 90% target for cleanliness.

Infection Prevention and Control National Standards Draft

The IPC draft standards are undergoing review following the consultation process with NHS boards and care providers that we completed on 7 December 2021. These are due to be launched on 22nd May 2022. The IPC team are reviewing the standards requirements, including the resources needed to comply with and maintain these standards to drive improvement and reduce the risk of infection for patients, staff and the public.

Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in December 96.2%, January 96.7% and February 97.0%.

External Partner Engagement

It remains a priority for the IPC team to support communication internally and externally, for example, by contributing to incident-support meetings with infection control managers, which are coordinated by Health Protection Scotland weekly, and by attending meetings of the (UK-wide) National Infection Prevention and Control Ambulance Group. This is especially important when the guidance is changing rapidly as a result of new variants and evidence from studies and the literature, and the challenge is compounded in cases in which the guidance provided within the four nations differs. Consistency checking and clarification has been undertaken throughout the pandemic to assure the Service that all guidance is relevant, current and consistent.

Doc: 2022-03-30 HAI update Board	Page 4	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 2022-03-30	Version 1.3	Review Date: May 2022

Conclusion

This report highlights the challenges to delivering the annual IPC Programme of Work presented by the ongoing pandemic, the emergence of new variants and the pressures facing the IPC team. 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.

CONSULTATION

This updated report was approved by the HAI executive lead prior to submission.

Doc: 2022-03-30 HAI update Board	Page 5	Author: Head of Infection Prevention & Control
Date: 2022-03-30	Version 1.3	Review Date: May 2022