



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Public Board Meeting

27 September 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"> • Progress is provided on the Infection Prevention and Control Programme of Work for 2023/2024. • 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 and continue to meet the target of 90%. • The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) team was working with regions and departments to set up local systems of standard infection control precautions monitoring and reporting mechanisms through the existing governance structure. • As part of the recommendations in the IPC Workforce: Strategic Plan 2022–2024, the Healthcare-Associated Infection Policy, working in partnership with NHS boards, created five key role descriptors; the newly created role is the IPC Clinical Lead. • 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 progress of the Scottish Ambulance Service (the Service) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2023/2024 is reviewed and discussed at the Infection Control Committee (ICC) and every six weeks in a meeting with the Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) executive lead.

There are 33 deliverables in the IPC programme for 2023/2024 under the headings of nine delivery areas that align with HealthCare Improvement Scotland IPC National Standards (May 2022). The Programme of Work is progressing, with 30 of the deliverables at risk status green and progressing as planned. Three deliverables are at risk status amber; two of them rely on external organisations to progress and be outputted, and they have been delayed. They are in progress but not completed by the date stipulated in the programme. A delay in the deliverables does not result in patient or staff safety concerns, and mitigation remains in place.

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.

Policy 001 on the 'Station, Vehicle (Including Aircraft) and Equipment Cleaning Schedule' was updated September 2022 and had an additional link added to the appendices. This is a risk assessment that outlines the action to take if there is an interruption to warm and/or hot water supplies within stations.

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.

Standard Infection Control Audits (SICPs) are the basic IPC measures required to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious agents. The IPC team (IPCT) was working with regions and departments to set up local systems of SICIP monitoring and reporting mechanisms through the existing governance structure. This will support a culture of safety with the aim of reducing to the greatest extent possible the risk of infection and will also support NHS Scotland's ambition that all healthcare staff, not only the IPCT, assume responsibility for IPC. The Service's IPCT will continue to conduct monitoring of SICPs at emergency departments yearly, which has already begun, with the results being communicated to the regional directors.

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IPC Workforce: Strategic Plan 2022–2024

The Infection Prevention Workforce: Strategic Plan 2022–2024 was developed to address the concerns of the Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS), Health Protection (HP) (as regards to the IPC element) and IPC workforces before, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic highlighted concerns relating to capacity that are connected to the skills and expertise within the IPC workforce.

Recommendation 1 of the plan relates to role clarification. The HCAI Policy Unit agreed to lead the work and co-created five key role descriptors; the newly created role is the IPC Clinical Lead. The HCAI Policy Unit highlighted that it would be up to NHS boards (taking into account the complexity and size of the health board) to determine whether the HCAI Executive Lead is retained in cases in which they have delegated accountability within the board for HCAI as determined by the board's internal Scheme of Delegation. The IPC Clinical Lead could replace the Infection Control Manager or serve in addition to the Infection Control Manager. Feedback should be provided to the HCAI Policy Unit by 4 September 2023

HAI and the Built Environment

The IPC team, with other Service colleagues, have met with microbiology/IPC representatives from NHS Assure to discuss future specifications and design for ambulance vehicles used by the Special Operation and Rescue team that may transport patients with high consequences infectious diseases. They have also been asked to consider the option of whether existing accident & emergency vehicles can be redesigned/adapted to transport these patients safely and keep our staff safe.

Best Value - Environmental Cleaning Services

A review is underway of cleaning services and cleaning contracts in the East region and in 10 stations in the West region to ensure consistent best value cleaning services that align with the NCSS. Vaccination Manager who has facilities management training and experience is leading this effort with support from the IPC team.

In addition, the IPC team are developing guidance that outlines the quality assurance measures, roles and responsibilities of Service staff and of external contractors (including other NHS boards) to ensure that governance systems and process are clear.

Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in April June 96.2%, July 96.9% and August 96.8%.

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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