



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Public Board Meeting

31 January 2024

Item 12

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 (IPC)
Action required	The Board is asked to discuss and note this report.
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IPC Programme of Work for 2023/2024 continues and update is provided in the report (Page 3). Guidance on decontaminating vehicles after aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs). The guidance, ‘PPE during Aerosol Generating Procedures’, describes the personal protective equipment requirement when conducting AGPs and complies with the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual. (Page 3). The IPC team have completed the monitoring of standard infection control precautions (SICPs) at emergency departments. A report should be completed shortly for distribution to the regions and clinical departments within SAS (Page 3). An update on change to Infection prevention and control service is provided (Page 4). Compliance with the Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) bundle remains above the target of 95% (Page 4).
Timing	This paper is presented to the Board bimonthly in the Scottish Government’s prescribed template.
Associated corporate risk identification	Risk ID 4636—Health and wellbeing of staff
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 continually improve our care and enhance the resilience and sustainability of our services
Link to NHS Scotland's quality ambitions	The work and information cited in this report supports the Service in its contribution to safe and effective care.
Benefit to patients	Safe clinical practices and a clean environment and patient-care equipment protect patients from the risk of HAI.
Equality and diversity	HAI policies are based on NHS Scotland HAI policy and guidance and apply to all staff and patient groups. ARHAI and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) conduct equality-impact assessments on all HAI national guidance, policy and standards. The reported hand hygiene, SICPs and cleanliness audit results 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 (SAS's) IPC Programme of Work for 2023/2024 was developed on behalf of the Service's Infection Control Committee (ICC). The IPC team are responsible for developing and facilitating the programme's implementation, but ensuring IPC clearly does not lie solely within the domains of our ICC and teams. Everyone has IPC responsibilities.

The ICC and IPC team continue to advance the 2023/2024 Programme of Work, but it is anticipated that some deliverables may be delayed beyond the March 2024 deadline, as achieving them depends on national policy and education organisations completing their deliverables on time. The ICC was updated at the meeting of 4 December 2023 and was advised that the delays pose no risk to patients or staff.

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 inform those organisations and the ICC when making necessary changes. Guidance on the cleaning and decontamination of power air purifying respirators has been updated and reviewed. In line with the best value mandate programme of work, it is anticipated that policy changes will be required on 'Station, vehicle (including aircraft) and equipment cleaning schedule' following a review of cleaning services and cleaning contracts.

Following consultation with the anti-microbial resistant HAI team, the IPC team have updated the guidance on decontaminating vehicles after aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs). The guidance, 'PPE during Aerosol Generating Procedures', describes the personal protective equipment requirement when conducting AGPs and complies with the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual. It also explains new procedures in the decontamination of vehicles following AGPs, including a change in the chemical used for cleaning. A risk assessment of this procedure was undertaken and signed by Health and Safety colleagues and representatives on the staff partnership side.

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 comprehensive IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) is carried out every six months. Monitoring the audits and adhering to the NCSS is a fundamental element and priority of the IPC work programme, and we continue with this and strive to maintain our target of 90%.

The IPC team completed the monitoring of standard infection control precautions (SICPs) at emergency departments by the target dates in December 2023, including emergency departments in remote and rural areas, the Western Isles and the Shetland and Orkney Islands. A report should be completed shortly for distribution to the regions and clinical departments within SAS.

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IPC Service Changes

The coming few months will bring a number of changes to service personnel. The lead IPC advisor post has become vacant, as the post holder moved to another IPC post in an ambulance service at the end of December 2023. In response, we have created two 'acting up' posts from the existing workforce, one a Lead IPC and the other a Senior IPC Advisor. The head of IPC will retire in March 2024, beginning a phased retirement in January 2024. The post will be advertised as soon as possible but must undergo the job evaluation process.

The priority of the IPC team is to continue IPC audit activity; the SICPs monitoring and progress with IPC programme of work.

HAI and the Built Environment

The head of the IPC team and the infection control doctor continue to contribute to the project of ensuring that future aircraft design meets the IPC requirements based on airborne, droplet and contact routes of transmission and compliance with the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual. The head of IPC is part of the evaluation panel, and the bids were individually evaluated in November and December 2023. With consensus, meeting sessions will be held in January 2024.

There have been no new builds or refurbishing of SAS premises in the past six months. Therefore, the IPC have undertaken no HAI System for Controlling Risk in the Built Environment (SCRIBES) assessments. We are working with Estates and Health and Safety (H&S) colleagues to prioritise a list of tasks/refurbishment of station premises based on the assessment of risk from IPC and H&S. This was due to be completed in December 2023 but has been delayed until January 2024.

Peripheral Venous Catheter Insertion Bundle

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95%, with figures of 96.4% in October, November 95.6% and December 96.5%.

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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