



**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

<b>Public Board Meeting</b>	<b>29 March 2023</b> <b>Item 13</b>
<b>THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>PATIENT AND STAFF SAFETY – HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION (HAI) UPDATE REPORT</b>	

<b>Lead Director Author</b>	Emma Stirling, Director, Care Quality and Professional Development Sarah Freeman, Head of Infection Prevention and Control
<b>Action required</b>	The Board is asked to discuss and note this report.
<b>Key points</b>	<p>Thirty of thirty-four of the deliverables have been fully achieved in our Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2022/2023 <b>(Page 3)</b>.</p> <p>The IPC team have reviewed the IPC policy and guidance that were outstanding as a result of the pandemic and will have completed this by March 2023. <b>(Page 4)</b>.</p> <p>Members of the National Ambulance Service Infection Prevention and Control carried out a peer review audit of the service in January 2023. The programme of peer review audits will be carried out within ambulance services in the UK. <b>(Page 4)</b>.</p> <p>Overall compliance with the use of the Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) insertion care bundle is being consistently sustained above the quality indicator aim of 95% <b>(Page 4)</b>.</p>
<b>Timing</b>	This paper is presented to the Board bi-monthly in the Scottish Government’s prescribed template.
<b>Associated Corporate Risk Identification</b>	Risk 4636 – Health and wellbeing of staff Risk 4638 – Wider system changes and pressures
<b>Link to Corporate Ambitions</b>	We will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work collaboratively with citizens and our partners to create healthier and safer communities</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovate to continuously improve our care and enhance the resilience and sustainability of our services</li> </ul>
<b>Link to NHS Scotland's Quality Ambitions</b>	The work and information referred to in this report supports the Service in its contribution to safe and effective care.
<b>Benefit to Patients</b>	Safe clinical practices, a clean environment and patient care equipment protect patients from the risk of healthcare-associated infection (HAI).
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	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 2022-2023

The Scottish Ambulance Service's (the Service) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme of Work for 2022/2023 was developed on behalf of the Service's Infection Control Committee (ICC). Addressing national and local priorities for IPC, the work programme embraces healthcare, health protection and health promotion and has been approved by the Clinical Governance Committee and ICC. Every quarter, a detailed progress report is presented to the ICC for scrutiny and assurance.

As we come to the end of this year's programme of work, we can advise that 30 of 34 deliverables have been fully achieved and two partially achieved. Two of the deliverables that are partially achieved are concerning the terrafix system that will record daily and weekly cleaning of vehicles electronically. Our information technology colleagues are advancing this on our behalf and testing the systems in the East region in the first quarter. Processes remain for staff to record the cleaning data on paper.

Operational pressures have delayed the implementation of a quality management system for the local monitoring of Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) in the regions. We are working with regional authorities and departments to move this forward as a priority. Appropriate mitigation measures are in place with the IPC team that will increase the SICPs' audit activity in February and March in addition to the yearly audit programme.

### Review of Policies/Guidance

The IPC team have reviewed the IPC policy and guidance that were outstanding as a result of the pandemic and will be achieved by March 2023. The last policy/guidance from this year is to be approved at the ICC in March, including the topics of outbreak management, Care and Management of patients suspected with Severe Respiratory Illness from Novel or Emerging Pathogens and managing viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHFs).

The IPC team and representatives of the Special Operation and Rescue Team (SORT) met with staff of the High Level Isolation Unit (HLIU) at Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle and with the SORT equivalent in North East Ambulance to discuss the safe transition of the Service's patients to the care of HLIU. Minor changes were made to the policy after the visits.

The Service's IPC team will engage with the Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) team with regard to high-consequence infectious diseases (HCIDs). The ARHAI team are in the process of producing evidential guidance with recommendations for HCIDs, but this has been delayed.

The IPC team are also represented in the national IPC and outbreak groups, to which they provide feedback to ensure that the process of change duly considers the unique nature of the Service. Since the last report, the IPC team have provided feedback on the following topic:

- Infection Prevention and Control advice for healthcare settings. (Monkeypox): Management of possible, probable, and confirmed cases.

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## **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 2022/2023. The Service is committed to achieving and maintaining consistently high IPC standards, continues to maintain our target of 90% and has completed all audits as requested by Health Facilities. The comprehensive IPC audit programme of ambulance vehicles and stations (known as the RIVO audits) is carried out every six months and continues on schedule.

The National Ambulance Service Infection Prevention and Control (NASIPC) have restarted the programme of peer review audit within ambulance services throughout the UK. The audits are based on the NHS England Health and Care Code of Practice, which aligns with NHS Scotland IPC standards. The peer visits were carried out by IPC specialists from North West Ambulance Service on 2 and 25 January 2023 using assessment criteria agreed upon by NASIPC.

## **The Infection Prevention Workforce: Strategic Plan 2022–2024**

The Infection Prevention Workforce strategic plan was circulated by the Chief Nursing Officer on 15 December 2022. Its two main ambitions are recovering from Covid-19 and building on learning of the future IPC services/workforce. Two recommendations that were due in March 2023 have been delayed: the core role descriptor for the NHS board's Clinical Lead for IPC and the IPC practitioners' developmental framework. The Service is represented in the group tasked with these deliverables.

## **Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) Insertion Bundle**

Compliance with the PVC bundle remains above the target of 95% with compliance in, December 96.4%, January 96.3%, and 96.1% February.

## **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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