


Community Infection Prevention and Control Policy for Domiciliary Care staff

Standard infection control precautions

STANDARD INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

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Contents

Page

1. Introduction..... 4

2. Hand hygiene 4

3. Patient placement and assessment for infection risk 4

4. Personal protective equipment 5

5. Respiratory and cough hygiene 5

6. Safe disposal of waste..... 5

7. Safe management of blood and body fluids 5

8. Safe management of care equipment 5

9. Safe management of linen 6

10. Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries 6

11. Safe management of the care environment 6

12. References 6

**STANDARD INFECTION CONTROL
PRECAUTIONS**

STANDARD INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

1. Introduction

There are 10 'Standard infection control precautions' (SICPs) referred to by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

All staff in all situations involving the care of service users or contact with their environment must use SICPs.

SICPs underpin routine safe practice and break the chain of infection which protects service users, visitors and staff. There is often no way of knowing who is infected, so by applying standard infection control precautions to all people at all times, best practice becomes second nature and the risk of infection is minimised.

2. Hand hygiene

Please refer to the 'Hand hygiene Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

Hand hygiene is the single most important way to prevent the spread of infection. Good hand hygiene should be undertaken by all staff, service users and visitors.

3. Patient placement and assessment for infection risk

Please refer to the 'Patient placement and assessment for infection risk Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

Prior to a service users transfer to and/or from another health and social care facility, an assessment for infection risk must be undertaken. This ensures appropriate placement of the service user.

Note: Where personal care is provided by a domiciliary care agency to an individual person in their own home, it is unlikely that the agency will be responsible for providing the information given in this Policy. However, this will apply if it provides personal care to a group of service users in a supported living service or sheltered housing

complex and takes an active role in liaising with or contacting healthcare professionals on behalf of service users.

4. Personal protective equipment

Please refer to the 'Personal protective equipment Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

Before undertaking any procedure, staff should assess any likely exposure to blood and/or body fluids, non-intact skin or mucous membranes and wear PPE that protects adequately against the risks associated with the procedure.

5. Respiratory and cough hygiene

Please refer to 'Respiratory and cough hygiene Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

Respiratory and cough hygiene can help reduce the risk of spreading respiratory (related to breathing) infections, protecting those in contact with the infected person, e.g. service users, family and staff.

Staff should adopt good respiratory and cough hygiene practices themselves and promote them to services users.

6. Safe disposal of waste

Please refer to the 'Safe disposal of waste Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

All staff are responsible for the safe management and disposal of waste.

7. Safe management of blood and body fluids

Please refer to the 'Safe management of blood and body fluids Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

All spillages of blood and body fluids must be dealt with promptly.

8. Safe management of care equipment

Please refer to the 'Safe management of care equipment Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

Cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation is known as decontamination. Safe decontamination of equipment after use on a service user is an essential part of routine infection control to prevent the spread of infection.

9. Safe management of linen

Please refer to the 'Safe management of linen Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

Care should be taken when handling linen to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

10. Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries

Please refer to the 'Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

Sharps are items that could cause cuts or puncture wounds and include needles and sharp instruments. It is the responsibility of the user to dispose of sharps safely into a sharps container.

11. Safe management of the care environment

Please refer to the 'Safe management of the care environment Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

A clean environment reduces the risk of the spread of infections.

12. References

Department of Health (2015) *The Health and Social Act 2008: Code of Practice for the Prevention and control of healthcare associated infections*

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Department of Health (2007) *Transport of Infectious Substances best practice guidance for microbiology laboratories*

Department of Health (2006) *Essential steps to safe, clean care*

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National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2012, Updated 2017) *Healthcare-associated infections: prevention and control in primary and community care Clinical Guideline 139*

National Patient Safety Agency (August 2010) *The national specifications for cleanliness in the NHS: Guidance on setting and measuring performance outcomes in primary care medical and dental premises*

NHS England and NHS Improvement (March 2019) *Standard infection control precautions: national hand hygiene and personal protective equipment policy*

STANDARD INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS