

# IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

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## Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Policies

A **new set** of Community Infection Prevention and Control Policies for Care Home settings is now available. There has been a comprehensive review to ensure the policies reflect national IPC guidance. The most significant change is the inclusion of **'Quick reference guides'** for many policies to facilitate timely access to key points.

The full suite of 30 Policies can be downloaded free of charge at [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/care-homes/policies/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/care-homes/policies/). Alternatively a Policy folder is available to purchase by completing an [order form](#) or telephone 01423 553740.



### Significant changes to the following policies

#### CH 02 Antimicrobial stewardship: **New policy**

reflecting the requirements of the revised 'Health and Social Care Act 2008: *code of practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance*', December 2022. It details the role of staff in Care Home settings in ensuring appropriate antimicrobial use and stewardship to optimise outcomes for residents and reduce the risk of adverse events and antimicrobial resistance.

**CH 03 Aseptic Technique:** Addition of brief overview of 'Aseptic non-touch technique' (ANTT).

**CH 09 Hand hygiene:** Clarification relating to religious bangles and use of disposable over-sleeves.

**CH 11 Isolation:** Inclusion of 'Transmission based precautions' (TBPs), what they are and when they are required. A comprehensive table with an A-Z of infections.

**CH 16 PPE:** Consideration of overuse of PPE and its environmental impact. Clarification of glove use when making beds.

**CH 17 Respiratory and cough hygiene:** Updated to reflect the 'Standard infection control precaution' (SICP) in the '*National infection prevention and control manual (NIPCM) for England*'.

**CH 18 Respiratory Illnesses: **New policy**** in accordance with the revised '*Code of practice*' covering transmission of respiratory tract infections and management of residents with respiratory illnesses. A-Z of respiratory illnesses table.

**CH 19 Safe disposal of waste including sharps:** Table showing colour coding for sharps containers. All waste bags should be tied using a swan neck, then secured with a plastic tie. Sharps containers no longer require disposal at 3 months.

#### CH 20 Safe management of blood and body fluid spillages:

Actions for blood and body fluid spillage tables in line with NIPCM. Advice to disinfect followed by cleaning.

#### CH 21 Safe management of care equipment:

Additional sections detailing decontamination of mattresses and pressure receiving cushions, commodes and bed pans.

#### CH 22 Safe management of linen, including uniforms and workwear:

Inclusion of NIPCM requirement to label bags or receptacles containing infectious linen.

#### CH 23 Safe management of the care environment:

Additional section detailing requirements of the '*National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021*'.

#### CH 24 Scabies:

Update in accordance with UKHSA '*Guidance on the management of scabies cases and outbreaks in long-term care facilities and other closed settings*', January 2023. Revised guidance on the treatment regime for scabies.

#### CH 26 Specimen collection:

Revision of urinary tract infection signs and symptoms, when to send a urine sample and when to NOT dipstick urine. Summarised in a table.

**CH 27 SICPs and TBPs:** Addition of 'Transmission based precautions' in accordance with NIPCM.

#### CH 30 Viral gastroenteritis/Norovirus:

Updated with Healthcare Infection Society '*Guidelines for the management of norovirus outbreaks in acute and community health and social care settings*', February 2023. When to use eye protection and a fluid resistant surgical mask. The decision to declare the end of an outbreak must be taken with the local Community IPC/UKHSA and whenever possible, control measures should be maintained until all residents have been symptom free for 72 hours and a deep clean completed.

#### Save the dates:

- IPC training event for Care Homes and Domiciliary Care staff - 9th October, 2023
- Queen's Nursing Institute - IPC Champions Meeting 27th July 2023  
[Infection Prevention and Control Champions Meeting – The Queen's Nursing Institute \(qni.org.uk\)](http://Infection Prevention and Control Champions Meeting – The Queen's Nursing Institute (qni.org.uk))

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.  
[www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk)

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