



**Community Infection Prevention and Control
Policy for Care Home settings**

Standard infection control precautions

STANDARD INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

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This guidance document has been adopted as a policy document by:

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1. Introduction

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

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

SICPs underpin routine safe practice and break the chain of infection which protects residents, 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 are minimised.

This Policy reflects the 'Standard infection control precautions: national hand hygiene and personal protective equipment policy' published by NHS England and NHS Improvement (March 2019).

2. Hand hygiene

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

Please refer to the 'Hand hygiene Policy for Care Home settings'.

3. Patient placement and assessment for infection risk

Prior to a resident 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 resident.

Please refer to the 'Patient placement and assessment for infection risk Policy for Care Home settings'.

4. Personal protective equipment

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

Please refer to the 'Personal protective equipment Policy for Care Home settings'.

5. Respiratory and cough hygiene

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. resident, family and staff.

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

Please refer to the 'Respiratory and cough hygiene Policy for Care Home settings'.

6. Safe disposal of waste

All staff are responsible for the safe management and disposal of waste. All contaminated waste in a care home should be correctly segregated and disposed of to prevent injury or infection.

Please refer to the 'Safe disposal of waste Policy for Care Home settings'.

7. Safe management of blood and body fluids

All spillages must be dealt with promptly. Best practice is to use an appropriate spillage kit as per manufacturer's instructions. It is important to regularly check that the spillage kit is within the expiry date. If an appropriate spillage kit is not available, a chlorine-based disinfectant can be used, diluted in accordance with the type of spillage.

Refer to the 'Safe management of the care environment Policy for Care Home settings' and the 'Safe management of blood and body fluids Policy for Care Home settings'.

8. Safe management of care equipment

Cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation is known as decontamination. Safe decontamination of equipment after use on each resident is an essential part of routine infection control to prevent the transmission of infection.

Please refer to the 'Safe management of care equipment Policy for Care Home settings'.

9. Safe management of linen

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

Please refer to the 'Safe management of linen Policy for Care Home settings'.

10. Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries

This is referred to as 'Occupational safety/managing prevention of exposure (including sharps)' by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

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. Sharps injuries must be dealt with immediately to reduce the risk of transmission of infection.

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

11. Safe management of the care environment

Care homes should provide and maintain a clean and appropriate environment that facilitates the prevention and control of infections.

Please refer to the 'Safe management of the care environment Policy for Care Home settings'.

12. Infection Prevention and Control resources, education and training

The Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team have produced a wide range of innovative educational and IPC resources designed to assist your Care Home in achieving compliance with *The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance* and CQC registration requirements.

These resources are either free to download from the website or available at a minimal cost covering administration and printing:

- 29 IPC Policy documents for Care Home settings
- 'Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for Care Homes'
- 'IPC CQC Inspection Preparation Pack for Care Homes'
- IPC audit tools, posters, leaflets and factsheets
- 'IPC Bulletin for Care Homes'

In addition, we hold educational study events in North Yorkshire and can arrange bespoke training packages and 'Mock IPC CQC Inspections'. Prices vary depending on your requirements and location.

Further information on these high quality evidence-based resources is available at www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk.

13. References

Department of Health (2015) *The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance*

Department of Health (2013) *Choice Framework for local Policy and Procedures (CFPP) 01-04 Decontamination of linen for health and social care: Social care*

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

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

Health and Safety Executive (2013) *Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 (the Sharps Regulations)*. HSE Information sheet www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsis7.pdf [Accessed 9 October 2017]

Health and Safety Executive (2009) *The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (CDG 2009)* www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/1348/contents/made

Health and Safety Executive (1974) *Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974*
London

Loveday HP, et al, epic 3: National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England *Journal of Hospital Infection* 86S1 (2014) S1-S70

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2012 – Updated February 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*