



## INTRODUCTION

Good infection prevention and control practices are essential to maintain a safe environment for our service users, staff and visitors. Effective infection prevention and control must be part of everyday practice and consistently applied by everyone.

These infection prevention and control policies have been adapted for use by Cumberland Council establishments. They were originally produced by Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust Community Infection Prevention and Control Team and provide advice on infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and give specific guidance in relation to the infection prevention and control implications of infections such as *Clostridioides difficile*, Multi-resistant Gram-negative bacteria (MRGNB) and Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The contents incorporate the latest national guidance and should be seen as a guide to best practice. The principles in the *National infection prevention and control manual (NIPCM) for England*, NHS England, updated January 2023, should be applied across all care settings (including community and social care), complementing specific guidance produced for these settings, such as these Policies.

The documents describe the precautions and control measures that are essential to prevent and control infections in community settings such as care homes and day care centres.

Adhering to these policies will ensure that all staff are acting in accordance with the requirements of the *Health and Social Care Act 2008: code of practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance* (Department of Health and Social Care, December 2022) and are meeting Care Quality Commission requirements.

Good infection prevention and control, including cleanliness and prudent antimicrobial stewardship (AMS), is essential to ensure IPC practices can substantially reduce healthcare associated infection. Every year more than 300,000 people contract an infection associated with healthcare. Therefore, effective prevention and control of infection must be part of everyday practice and consistently applied by everyone. All staff play an important part in the control of infection, staff should read and apply the principles and practices in the policies to demonstrate commitment to high quality care and resident safety.

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**When caring for a resident with COVID-19 or any other new emerging infection, staff should refer to national IPC guidance.**

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