Important changes to the Infection Prevention and Control Manual

The purpose of this Stop Press is to tell you about important changes to our Infection Prevention and Control Manual. Please make sure that your wider team is aware of this information.

What has changed?

Health Protection Scotland (HPS) are in the process of introducing a National Infection Prevention and Control Manual. The national manual will provide guidance to all those involved in providing care and should be adopted for infection prevention and control practices and procedures. The national manual aims to:

• Embed the importance of infection prevention and control into everyday practice.
• Reduce variation in infection prevention and control practice and standardised care processes.
• Improve the application of knowledge and skills in infection prevention and control.
• Help reduce the risk of Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) cross-contamination.
• Help align practice, monitoring, quality improvement and scrutiny.

The first change being made as we move to the national manual is the removal of all NHS Ayrshire & Arran infection Control Policies referred to in the national Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) section. This change takes effect the week beginning Monday 4 February 2013.

SICPs are the basic infection prevention and control measures necessary to reduce the risk of transmission of micro-organisms from recognised and unrecognised sources of infection. These sources of (potential) infection include blood and other body fluid secretions or excretions (including sweat), non-intact skin or mucous membranes and any equipment or items in the care environment that are likely to become contaminated. The 10 elements of SICPS are:

• Patient placement / assessment for infection risk
• Hand hygiene
• Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
• Personal protective equipment (PPE)
• Management of care equipment
• Control of the environment
• Safe management of linen
• Management of blood and body fluid spillages
• Safe disposal of waste
• Occupational exposure management (including sharps)
What does this mean for us?

The implementation of the national manual will mean that:

• NHS Ayrshire & Arran’s Infection Prevention and Control Manual will be reduced and policies removed, as they will form part of the national manual’s SICPs policy.

• Staff will be required to ensure that they access the Infection Prevention and Control Manual section through the Infection Prevention & Control Athena Site at all times as their first point of reference for guidance.

• Policy holders with a paper copy of the manual will need to remove the current policies noted below as they are no longer applicable locally.

• Policy holders with a paper copy of the manual should reconsider the need to maintain a paper copy, given that the most up-to-date policies, procedures and guidance for all infection prevention issues are readily available online. If you are removing the paper copy of the manual from an area, please notify the Infection Prevention and Control Team and return it to them.

• HPS have allowed for minor modifications to be made that are specific to NHS Ayrshire & Arran practice in the Appendix section of the SICPs document only.

Which policies will be superceded with the new SICPs section implemented?

With effect from 4 February 2013, the following NHS Ayrshire & Arran policies will be removed and replaced with the HPS SICPs:

Section 3: Guidelines for cleaning disinfection and sterilisation

Section 3: Appendix 1: Single Use Medical Devices and Symbol Definitions

Section 4: Infection control guidelines for the storage and handling of clean and used linen

Section 5: Personal Protective Equipment

Section 6: Guidelines for Hand Hygiene

Section 10: Guidelines for the safe handling and disposal of needles and sharps

Section 24: Preparation of clinical equipment prior to service or repair

It is important that this information is shared widely among clinical teams across the organisation. If further information or clarification is required to this change, please contact the Infection Prevention and Control Team by:

📞 Telephoning 01563 825765 (internal extension 25765)

📧 Emailing infectioncontrol@aapct.scot.nhs.uk (can be found on the global list)

Please click here for the ‘Prevention and control of infection’ site, or visit Athena and select ‘Prevention and control of infection’ from the ‘Clinical’ drop-down menu on the home page.

Tell us what you think... If you would like to comment on any issues raised by this Stop Press, please email comms@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk. If you provide your contact details, we will acknowledge your comments and pass them to the appropriate departments for a response.

Name and department (optional) __________________________________________

Comments _____________________________________________________________

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