

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting: Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board

Meeting date: Monday 9 October 2023

Title: Healthcare Associated Infection Report

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1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Discussion

This paper relates to:

- Annual Operational Plan

This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe

2. Report summary

2.1 Situation

This paper is presented to Board members to provide assurance in the following areas:

- The current position against the National Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Standards.
- A report on our compliance with the national IPC Standards (May 2022) and progress with the associated Improvement Action Plan.
- Key learning and improvements being taken in response to improved care for our patients following outbreaks and incidents.

2.2 Background

The Scottish Government has established national healthcare associated infection (HCAI) standards for infection reductions, and progress with these is monitored by the Healthcare Governance Committee (HGC).

In May 2022 Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) released *Infection Prevention and Control Standards for Health and Adult Social Care Settings*. This document sets out nine standards which organisations should have in place, and which support quality improvement in relation to infection prevention and control. HIS may use these as part of their inspection and assurance arrangements. Our compliance with these standards is reported to the HGC.

The HGC has a priority in 2023-24 on behalf of the Board to focus on receiving evidence of organisational learning and demonstrable improvement, and to ensure national improvement priorities and programmes are delivered locally. The detail in this paper supports assurance in relation to HCAI and infection prevention learning and improvement across the Health Board.

2.3 Assessment

HCAI Standards

Aligns to National IPC Standards (2022)	
Standard 4	Assurance and Monitoring Systems

The Board's current verified position of the HCAI standards was reported in detail to the last meeting of the Board and the full detail is therefore not repeated in this report. However, in May 2023 some HCAI and community data was incorrectly assigned. This has had an impact on the ECB data and rates for quarter four 2022-23, and quarter one of 2023-24 as detailed below. The reason for incorrect assignment has been identified and corrective action taken to prevent a recurrence. Work took place in collaboration with ARHAI Scotland to ensure the information for quarter two 2023-24 is accurate.

Infection	NHS A&A Annual Rate Year Ending March 2023 (number of cases per 100,000 Total Occupied Bed Days (TOBDs))	NHS A&A Quarter Rate January – March 2023 (number of cases per 100,000 Total Occupied Bed Days (TOBDs))	2023-24 Target (cases per 100,000 TOBDs)
<i>Clostridioides difficile</i> Infection	17.1	12.7	13.0
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Bacteraemia	18.6	19.4	12.4
<i>Escherichia coli</i> Bacteraemia	35 (32.7*)	28.7 (26.2*)	34.3

*Previous reported data

Figure 1 – NHS Ayrshire & Arran's annual verified position

A range of actions are in place as part of the annual work plan to drive down the number and rates of these infections. Progress with these actions is reviewed by the Prevention and Control of Infection Committee (PCOIC) and assurance provided to Healthcare Governance Committee (HGC).

National IPC Standard (2022)

Aligns to National IPC Standards (2022)	
Standard 1	Leadership and governance
Standard 2	Education and training
Standard 3	Communication
Standard 4	Assurance and monitoring systems
Standard 5	Optimising antimicrobial use
Standard 6	Infection prevention and control policies, procedures and guidance
Standard 7	Clean and safe care equipment
Standard 8	The built environment
Standard 9	Acquisition and provision of equipment

On 16 May 2022, Healthcare Improvement Scotland published the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Standards. These replaced the previous Healthcare Associated Infection standards which had been valid since February 2015. The Chief Nursing Officer letter (DL 2022 14), requested Boards undertake an evaluation of their current practice against the newly published standards. The new standards are available via the following link: [Infection prevention and control standards \(healthcareimprovementscotland.org\)](https://healthcareimprovementscotland.org)

A review of NHS Ayrshire & Arran's compliance has been completed and an Improvement Action Plan developed to address the elements of the standards that have been identified as partially or not met. The Action Plan has been approved by the PCOIC and HGC.

Key progress is:

- Increased organisational awareness of these standards, the gap analysis and Improvement Action Plan, which have been disseminated through Healthcare Governance Committees to ensure Directorates are sighted on their responsibilities for actions within the Plan.
- A Quality and Safety Strategic Group has been established, chaired by the Deputy Nurse Director, to facilitate the sharing of audit action plans, education and learning from outbreaks across disciplines and Directorates. This will assist in fully meeting Standard 4, specifically 4.2 and 4.3.

There is a challenge with progressing some actions due to continuing capacity constraints within the Infection Prevention and Control Team. A range of mitigating actions are being taken to address this and it remains on the corporate risk register (Risk ID: 811). Progress with the Improvement Action Plan will continue to be tracked, with oversight from the PCOIC.

Infection Outbreaks and Incidents

Aligns to National IPC Standards (2022)	
Standard 2	Education and training
Standard 4	Assurance and monitoring systems
Standard 6	Infection prevention and control policies, procedures and guidance
Standard 7	Clean and safe care equipment

The following outbreaks and incidents were reviewed at the most recent PCOIC:

Outbreak/Incident	Details	Key Learning
Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) incident	October to December 2022 17 patients were affected however no deaths occurred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication issues between IPC and ward staff • Delay in contacting discharged patients due to uncertainty as to whether this was Public Health or the IPCT responsibility. • Clinical staff unfamiliar with CPE management/policy • Learning need identified in relation to the frequency of CPE screens in the community versus in- hospital, and during an outbreak versus routine admission screening frequency.

For each outbreak/incident, relevant actions are in place to address key learning, and these action plans are tracked to completion by the IPCT.

This included:

- CPE education was provided by the IPCT for staff on the ward at the time and refresher training is being planned for the ward and Board-wide as part of winter preparedness work 2023-24.
- Hotel services promptly undertook a terminal clean of the ward and continued enhanced cleaning throughout the outbreak.
- Communication issues have been reviewed and clarified, including with the Public Health Team.

2.3.1 Quality/patient care

Attainment of the national HCAI standards will result in fewer infections in patients and improve patient outcome.

2.3.2 Workforce

Reductions in HCAI will reduce exposure risk to staff from harmful infections.

2.3.3 Financial

Reductions in HCAI will lead to reduced inpatient lengths of stay and associated, investigation and treatment costs.

2.3.4 Risk assessment/management

The Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) provide clinical teams and managers with risk assessed advice and guidance based on national policy and best practice.

2.3.5 Equality and diversity, including health inequalities

An impact assessment has not been completed as this is an update report to Board members.

2.3.6 Other impacts

No other impacts to note.

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

This is a standing report to the Board.

2.3.8 Route to the meeting

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

- Prevention and Control of Infection Committee, 20 July 2023
- Healthcare Governance Committee, 11 September 2023

2.4 Recommendation

For discussion. This paper is for assurance and asks Board Members to:

1. Scrutinise the current Board position in relation to national HCAI Standards and National IPC Standards (2022), and note the work in progress to further reduce infections and improve patient safety.
2. Confirm the report provides suitable assurance in relation to key learning from infection outbreaks and incidents.