

NEW DOVER ROAD SURGERY

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) STATEMENT

Background and Purpose

This annual statement will be generated each year 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.

It is relevant to all employees, visitors, contractors and anyone on training placements. It will summarise:

- Any infection transmission incidents and any actions taken (these will have been reported in accordance with our Significant Event procedure),
- Details of any infection control audits undertaken and actions undertaken,
- Details of any control risk assessments undertaken,
- Details of staff training,
- Any reviews and update of policies, procedures and guidelines.

New Dover Road Surgery is committed to ensuring appropriate arrangements and processes are in place for the effective prevention, detection and control of infection in order that it can appropriately meet its duty of care towards patients, staff and visitors to minimise the risk of infection to an acceptable minimum.

The organisation has reviewed the NICE guidance on the prevention, detection and control of infection and is committed to adopting that guidance. Consequently we make the following pledges:

Everyone involved in providing care will be:

- Educated about the standard principles of infection prevention and control **and**
- Trained in hand decontamination (yearly), the use of personal protective equipment, and the safe use and disposal of sharps.

1. Wherever care is delivered, our workers will have available appropriate supplies of:

- Materials for hand decontamination
- Sharps containers
- Personal protective equipment

2. We will seek to educate patients and carers about:

- The benefits of effective hand decontamination
- The correct techniques and timing of hand decontamination
- When it is appropriate to use liquid soap and water or handrub
- The availability of hand decontamination facilities

- Their role in maintaining standards of healthcare workers' hand decontamination

IPC Lead Staff

Dr Ray Mulvihill, GP
Verity Belsey, Nurse Manager

The IPC leads maintain and update knowledge through available training annually.

In addition to the lead staff, all staff (whether employed or engaged as locums, agency staff and contractors) have a personal responsibility to:

- Undertake annual Infection Prevention and Control training
- Ensure they take all appropriate steps so that they do not place any individual at risk of infection through their own practice. They will at all times undertaken hand hygiene measures as instructed, use PPE when appropriate and ensure waste is disposed of correctly and in accordance with the organisation's requirements.
- Challenge poor practices in other staff ensuring this is reported to their line manager
- Report any incidents in line with the organisation Significant Event policy
- Obtain advice from the organisation's Occupational Health Provider if they are concerned over their own risks.

Significant Events

Significant Events are logged on our intranet portal and discussed in regular management meetings in order to share learning outcomes, which are then shared with the wider staff where relevant.

In the last year (May 2022 – June 2023), there were no significant events raised in relation to IPC.

Infection Control Audits

IPC audits are undertaken on an annual basis. The most recent audit was completed by Verity Belsey (Nurse Manager) in June 2023. No major problems were noted. Changes have been made or are scheduled to be made where minor issues were identified.

We work with "Infection Prevention Solutions" who visit annually to complete a detailed IPC audit and review our policies, procedures and premises checks.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are carried out to that best practice can be followed. These include:

- Cleaning audits to ensure minimum standards are met and maintained in accordance with the national specification for cleaning

- Facilities and Health and Safety Audits relevant to Infection Prevention and Control, e.t. legionella measures, waste disposal audits
- Hand hygiene audits carried out on staff on a regular basis

Our Surgery cleaning is provided by Channel Facilities Management, who follow NHS cleaning specifications with regards to infection control and good cleaning standards. We have annual contract and quality reviews with Channel FM and carry out regular visual checks of the premises to ensure all work areas are clean.

Waiting areas and clinical rooms

Our waiting rooms have wipe-clean chairs and all posters displayed are laminated. We would encourage patients not to leave magazines/ newspaper in the waiting areas.

At reception we have a Perspex screen to protect staff and patients.

Handwashing sinks – all clinical rooms contact handwashing sinks. They do not meet the latest standards for sinks, but all taps are able to be operated with the elbow, and none of the sinks have plugs. Paper towels are available from dispensers next to sinks.

Modesty curtains in clinical rooms are disposable and replaced on a six monthly, or replaced immediately if soiled or damaged.

Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

We follow the latest IPC guidelines as published and updated annually by NHS England, “National infection prevention and control manual”, the latest being from 20 April 2022.

Our own policies are reviewed and updated annually, amended on an ongoing basis as current advice, guidance and legislation changes occur, and made available to all staff.

Complaints relating to cleanliness or IPC issues should be directed in writing to Rachel Mackey, Practice Manager

This statement will be reviewed annually

Next review due: June 2024