

Infection Control Policy

Every healthcare worker plays a vital part in minimising the risk of cross infection. All personnel working in Home Healthcare are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of infection control and environment hygiene. By making certain hands are properly washed, the clinical environment is clean, ensuring knowledge and skills are continually updated and by educating patients and relatives as infection prevention and control/basic hygiene are important in protecting health.

Standard precautions underpin routine safe practice, protecting both staff and clients from infection. By applying standard precautions at all times the risk of infection is minimised.

The Health Care Act 2006 sets out key activities that should be undertaken with respect to good practice. These systems need to be at the heart of all clinical and management practice. Consideration needs to be given to the range and types of environment in Home Healthcare where infection can occur, and to the systems in place to support prevention and control of infection, decontamination and maintaining a clean hospital environment.

POLICY STATEMENT

Home Healthcare accepts its responsibility for the effective prevention and control to form an integral part of all services and development, including induction, on-going training, clinical audit and surveillance, and a clean healthcare environment.

The policy applies to all staff who are employed by Home Healthcare and all other persons engaged in business with the company.

Education in prevention and control of infection will be provided to all employees involved in direct patient care including those employed in support services, as part of clinical governance/risk management and continuing professional development.

Confidentiality for patients and staff will be maintained at all times in accordance with the provisions of the Human Rights Act and relevant guidelines on confidentiality, Caldicott and Freedom of Information.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- To protect the client's health and with particular regard to the prevention of antibiotic resistant infections and healthcare acquired infection.
- To ensure policies and guidance for the prevention and management of infection are in place across the organisation.
- To review and improve infection prevention and control arrangements.
- To ensure that all staff receive relevant training in basic hygiene and the management of infection control.
- To develop systems to ensure that surveillance of communicable disease and infection meet local, regional and national needs.
- To work with other stakeholders to improve surveillance and strengthen prevention and control of infection and communicable disease processes.

- To ensure that appropriate resources are made available.

INFECTION CONTROL AUDIT

Selected policies, agreed in the infection control programme will be subject to audit of implementation and compliance.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The manager is responsible for ensuring there are:

- Effective arrangements for infection control within the company.
- Clear lines of accountability for infection control throughout Home Healthcare.
- Delegated responsibility for infection control.
- Bi-annual reports on the infection control programme.
- Ensuring serious incidents relating to infection control issues are reported.
- The development of systems to share recommendations and the results of the analysis of both surveillance and infection incidents with health care workers.
- MRSA surveillance
- Infection control policy and guidance
- Annual infection control programme and monitoring progress.
- Endorsement and recommendation of health protection and infection control policy and guidance.
- Providing advice and support on the implementation of policy and guidance.
- Renewing health protection and infection control programme.
- Endorsing and agreeing objectives and priorities for targeted surveillance of infection.

Senior nurse will:

- Ensure that all staff in their sphere of management receive appropriate training and understand the importance of infection prevention and control in clinical areas.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE

- Health & safety at work act 1974
- RIDDOR 1995
- Management of health and safety at work regulations 1999
- COSHH 1999
- The Health act 2006