

## National Infection Prevention & Control Manual (NIPCM)

### 1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Professor Jean White recently introduced and launched the electronic National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) through the Public Health Wales webpages, requesting that all Health Boards and Trusts adopt the NIPCM.

As highlighted in the Welsh Health Circulars (WHC/2018/20), Healthcare organisations are required to reduce the burden of antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated infections, and improve the quality of patient care through embedding infection prevention and control practices in everyday activity including more prudent and effective antimicrobial prescribing.

Model policies for Infection Prevention and Control for Standard Infection Control Precaution Precautions and Transmission-based Precaution Policies previously developed by Public Health Wales have been superseded by the adoption of the Scottish National Infection Control Manual (NICM). Public Health Wales have teamed up with NHS Scotland to host and utilise the electronic NIPCM to ensure all healthcare organisations in Wales have access to consistent, current and standardised policies to support practice.

The e-manual has been adopted for use by all healthcare organisations and is based on systematic reviews of literature and policies from Health Protection Scotland. As part of the routine updating of the manual, Public Health Wales contribute to the consensus committee that approves and ratifies changes to ensure they are fit for purpose. It is hoped the manual will;

- Contribute to standardise practice for infection prevention and therefore HCAI reduction
- Lead to harm reduction
- Improve the quality of care for our patients.

Link to the manual:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/nipcm/>

- 1.2 This policy applies to all staff employed by or contracted to the Trust, including those within the Hosted Organisations.

## **2. SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

2.1 A summary of the key changes are outlined below:

The NIPCM is an evidence based manual which is intended for use by all those involved in care provision. The manual contains information on):

- Chapter 1 Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs)
- Chapter 2 Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs)
- Chapter 3 Healthcare Infection incidents, outbreaks and data exceedance

The NIPCM replaces the IPC Policies:

- IPC02 Standard Infection Control and Transmission Based Precautions
- IPC14 Outbreak Management

It is planned to further develop the content of the manual.

It is a practice guide for use in Wales which can help reduce the risk of Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) and ensure the safety of those being cared for, staff and visitors in the care environment.

It aims to:

- Make it easy for care staff to apply effective infection prevention and control precautions.
- Reduce variation and optimise infection prevention and control practices throughout Scotland.
- Help reduce the risk of Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI).
- Help align practice, monitoring, quality improvement and scrutiny.

## **3. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

This policy has been screened for relevance to equality. No potential negative impact has been identified.