Infection. Prevention. Control.
You're in safe hands

NHS

To further support Care Home staff, here is some information on good infection prevention and control (IPC) practice.

Information on infections – are you complying?

Do you know whether the service user you are attending has any known infections?

Did you know that Compliance criterion 4 of "The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance" (The Code), requires that a registered provider should ensure that:

- accurate information is communicated in an appropriate and timely manner
- this information facilitates the provision of optimum care, minimising the risk of inappropriate management and further transmission of infection
- where possible, information goes with the service user.

Despite this requirement, the provision of such information by health and social care providers remains variable. The lack of relevant and up-to-date information on a service user's infection status poses a risk of transmission of infection to not only other service users, but also their families, visitors and staff.

What information is required?

To assist health and social care providers comply with criterion 4 of The Code, a downloadable Inter-Healthcare Infection Control Transfer Form (IHICTF) can be accessed from our website. This form provides an assessment of the service user's infection risk (confirmed, suspected or none) and should be completed for each service user whose care is being transferred from one provider to another, whether they have a known or suspected infection or not.

The form and guidance can be accessed from our website.

What do you do with the completed IHICTF?

The completed form should be supplied to the receiving provider and a copy kept by the transferring provider in the service user's records.

What if the service user is in the 'suspected or confirmed infection risk' group?

The transferring provider should notify the ambulance service and accepting provider in advance, so that appropriate infection prevention and control measures can be put in place.

What if the transfer is an emergency?

In the event of an emergency transfer, include the infection risk status in any verbal communication to the ambulance personnel and the admitting unit. This will enable them to ensure that isolation facilities are identified if appropriate.

What if you don't provide the infection status information when transferring a service user to another provider?

If you transfer a service user's care to another provider and do not provide the information required, it may be reported on the receiving providers local management system. Such incident reports will be fed back to the Care Quality Commission (CQC), where applicable.

What if you haven't received information on the service user's infection status?

If you do not receive an IHICTF when a service user is transferred to your care, ask the transferring provider to complete one and either scan and e-mail, fax or telephone the information to you before accepting the service user.

Recap of providing information on infections

Why? To reduce the risk of transmission of infection and comply with CQC registration requirements.

When? Whenever a service user's care is transferred from one provider to another.

How? Communicate accurate information. Verbally inform ambulance service and receiving provider of any confirmed/suspected infection risks.

Further information:

If you require IPC education as part of your annual update or evidence for CQC compliance, visit our innovative website for health and social care providers and see our award winning 'Preventing Infection Workbook and Guidance for Community Health and Social Care'.

We have also produced an excellent 'IPC CQC Inspection Preparation Pack for Care Homes' at only £69.99 to support you with your IPC requirements for CQC registration.

So have a look and see what you think!

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk