



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



INTRODUCTION

The Community Infection Prevention and Control Policies for Care Home settings have been produced by a dynamic NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control Team, with a vast experience of working with the Health and Social Care sector. These Policies (guidelines) describe the precautions and control measures that are essential to prevent and control infection in Care Home settings.

The Policies provide advice on infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and give specific guidance in relation to the infection prevention and control implications of infections such as *Clostridioides difficile*, Multi-resistant Gram-negative bacteria (MRGNB) and Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The contents incorporate the latest national guidance and should be seen as a guide to best practice. The principles in the *National infection prevention and control manual (NIPCM) for England*, NHS England, updated January 2023, should be applied across all care settings (including community and social care), complementing specific guidance produced for these settings, such as these Policies.

These evidence-based Policies have been developed with the aim that they can be adopted by Care Homes. To facilitate this, we have incorporated an adoption statement in each document that should be signed and dated. This will help demonstrate compliance with the *Health and Social Care Act 2008: code of practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance (code of practice)*, Department of Health and Social Care, updated December 2022, and Care Quality Commission (CQC) requirements.

Good infection prevention and control, including cleanliness and prudent antimicrobial stewardship (AMS), is essential to ensure IPC practices can substantially reduce healthcare associated infection. Every year more than 300,000 people contract an infection associated with healthcare. Therefore, effective prevention and control of infection must be part of everyday practice and consistently applied by everyone. All staff play an important part in the control of infection, staff should read and apply the principles and practices in the policies to demonstrate commitment to high quality care and resident safety.

We have also developed a 'one-stop-shop' Infection Prevention and Control website specifically for Care Home, Domiciliary Care, General Practice and other Healthcare Professionals. This innovative website has numerous resources to help organisations with CQC compliance, including guidance, posters, leaflets, educational tools, including the award winning 'Preventing Infection Workbook':

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Guidance for Care Homes' and the highly acclaimed 'Infection Prevention and Control CQC inspection preparation Pack for Care Homes'.

It is also a requirement of the '*code of practice*' that an audit programme is in place to ensure that the appropriate IPC Policies have been implemented, and the IPC CQC inspection preparation Pack can help support you with your evidence.

The website can be found at:

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

When caring for a resident with COVID-19 or any other new emerging infection, staff should refer to national IPC guidance.

These Policies contain public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information on our innovative infection prevention and control products and educational resources.

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April 2023
Version 3.00

Contact details for your local area

Local UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Team (Enter contact details below)

Contact details:	Tel:
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Local Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team (this could be your local UKHSA or Hospital IPC Team) (Enter contact details below)

Contact details:	Tel:
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