

INTRODUCTION

The Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Policies for Care Home settings have been produced by an NHS Community IPC Team, who have extensive experience of working with the Health and Social Care sector.

The Policies are based on the *National infection prevention and control manual (NIPCM) for England* and as defined in the *Health and Social Care Act 2008: code of practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance (Code of practice)*. NHS England states that organisations may choose to adopt the *NIPCM* which should be complemented by specific guidance produced for Care Home settings. The *NIPCM* is incorporated as referenced in these Policies with detailed care home specific guidance.

These evidence-based Policies provide advice and describe the precautions and control measures that are essential to prevent and control infection. The Policies can be adopted by completing the statement on Page 2 of each Policy. This will help demonstrate compliance with the *Code of practice* and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) 'Quality statement' for IPC.

It may be necessary for you to have additional IPC Policies in place for any specialist care you provide.

Good infection prevention and control, including cleanliness, and prudent antimicrobial stewardship can substantially reduce healthcare associated infection. 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 and should read and apply the principles and practices in these Policies. Implementation of the IPC Policies should be monitored through a rolling programme of audit to provide assurance, opportunities for learning and demonstrate continuous improvement.

A range of supporting IPC resources have been produced to complement these Policies. These include audit tools, posters, leaflets, bulletins and educational tools, such as the 'Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for Care Homes' and the 'IPC CQC inspection preparation Pack for Care Homes'.

Further information on these resources can be found at:

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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 IPC resources.

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Contact details for your local area

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

Contact details:	Tel:

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:

References

Department of Health and Social Care (December 2022) *Health and Social Care Act 2008: code of practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance*

NHS England (Updated 2025) *National infection prevention and control manual (NIPCM) for England*