

IPC Bulletin for Care Home staff

Issue No. 20 — December 2019

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



Use of superabsorbent polymer gel granules (including sachets, mats and loose powder)

Due to a number of incidents, including several patient deaths, the National Patients Safety Agency (NPSA) has released a further bulletin advising against the use of superabsorbent polymer gel granules, sachets or mats in urine bottles, wash bowls or vomit bowls.

NHS England and NHS Improvement advises:

- Polymer granules to be used only for **exceptional** infection control purposes
- Any organisation (including care homes) still using these products are to protect residents by introducing strict restrictions on their use
- Healthcare organisations to follow the guidance set out by NHS England
- Healthcare organisations to compete 'Actions required by 01/06/2020'

https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/6190/PS_Alert_Polymer_28_Nov_2019_FINAL.pdf

Inter-Health and Social Care Infection Control Transfer Form

The Inter-Health and Social Care Infection Control Transfer Form has been developed to help care homes share information on the transfer of residents to and from health and social care facilities, e.g. hospitals.

This supports *The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infection and related guidance* (Department of Health 2015), which states that "suitable accurate information on infections be provided to any person concerned with providing further support or nursing/medical care in a timely fashion".

The Inter-Health and Social Care Infection Control Transfer Form should accompany the resident and, where possible, a copy filed in their notes. The information provided is vital in facilitating the receiving health and social care facility to implement the necessary infection control measures and help to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/content/uploads/2019/09/Inter-Health-and-Social-Care-Infection-Control-Transfer-Form-April-2017.pdf

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