



**Community Infection Prevention and Control
Policy for Domiciliary Care staff**

SICPs and TBPs (Standard infection control precautions and transmission based precautions)

SICPs and TBPs

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Organisation:

Signed:

Job Title:

Date Adopted:

Review Date:

If your organisation would like to exclude or include any additional points to this Policy, please include below. Please note, the Community IPC Team cannot endorse or be held responsible for any addendums.

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SICPs and TBPs

SICPs AND TBPs (STANDARD INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS AND TRANSMISSION BASED PRECAUTIONS)

1. Introduction

There are a number of 'Standard infection control precautions' (SICPs) referred to by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

All staff in all situations involving the care of service users or contact with their environment must use SICPs and TBPs.

SICPs and TBPs underpin routine safe practice and break the chain of infection which protects service users, visitors and staff. There is often no way of knowing who is infected, so by applying standard infection control precautions and transmission based precautions to all people at all times, best practice becomes second nature and the risk of infection is minimised.

When caring for service users in relation to COVID-19 or any other new emerging infections, staff should refer to national infection prevention and control guidance.

2. Hand hygiene

Hand hygiene is the single most important way to prevent the spread of infection. Good hand hygiene should be undertaken by all staff, service users and visitors.

Refer to the 'Hand hygiene Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

3. Patient placement and assessment for infection risk

Prior to a service users transfer to and/or from another health and social care facility, an assessment for infection risk must be undertaken. This ensures appropriate placement of the service user.

Note: Where personal care is provided by a domiciliary care agency to an individual person in their own home, it is unlikely that the

agency will be responsible for providing the information given in this Policy. However, this will apply if it provides personal care to a group of service users in a supported living service or sheltered housing complex and takes an active role in liaising with or contacting healthcare professionals on behalf of service users.

Refer to the 'Patient placement and assessment for infection risk Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

4. Personal protective equipment

Before undertaking any procedure, staff should assess any likely exposure to blood and/or body fluids, non-intact skin or mucous membranes and wear PPE that protects adequately against the risks associated with the procedure.

Refer to the 'Personal protective equipment Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

5. Respiratory and cough hygiene

Respiratory and cough hygiene can help reduce the risk of spreading respiratory (related to breathing) infections, protecting those in contact with the infected person, e.g. service users, family and staff.

Staff should adopt good respiratory and cough hygiene practices themselves and promote them to services users.

Refer to 'Respiratory and cough hygiene Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

6. Safe disposal of waste

All staff are responsible for the safe management and disposal of waste.

Refer to the 'Safe disposal of waste Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

7. Safe management of blood and body fluids

All spillages of blood and body fluids must be dealt with promptly.

Refer to the 'Safe management of blood and body fluids Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

8. Safe management of care equipment

Cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation is known as decontamination. Safe decontamination of equipment after use on a service user is an essential part of routine infection control to prevent the spread of infection.

Refer to the 'Safe management of care equipment Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

9. Safe management of linen

Care should be taken when handling linen to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

Refer to the 'Safe management of linen Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

10. Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries

This is referred to as 'Occupational safety/managing prevention of exposure (including sharps)' by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

Sharps are items that could cause cuts or puncture wounds and include needles and sharp instruments. It is the responsibility of the user to dispose of sharps safely into a sharps container.

Refer to the 'Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

11. Safe management of the care environment

A clean environment reduces the risk of the spread of infections.

Refer to the 'Safe management of the care environment Policy for Domiciliary Care staff'.

12. Transmission based precautions

SICPs may be insufficient to prevent transmission of specific infections. Therefore, additional precautions TBPs may need to be taken by staff when caring for service users with a known or suspected infection or colonisation.

Decisions on the need for TBPs must be based on the:

- Suspected or known infectious agent
- Severity of the illness caused
- Transmission route of the infectious agent
- Procedures undertaken

TBPs are categorised by the route of transmission of the infection (some infections can be transmitted by more than one route). Application of TBPs may differ depending on the known or suspected infection.

Contact precautions

These are utilised to prevent and control infections which are spread via direct contact with the service user, or indirectly from the service user's immediate care environment and care equipment. This is the most common route of infection transmission.

Droplet precautions

These are utilised to prevent and control infections which are spread over short distances (at least 3 feet or 1 metre) via droplets (greater than 5 μm , i.e. 0.005 mm) from the respiratory tract of one individual directly onto a mucosal surface e.g. nose, eyes, mouth, of another individual. Droplets can enter the respiratory system, travelling into the lungs as far as the bronchioles, which are the last passageway leading onto to the alveoli (the endpoint of the respiratory system).

Airborne precautions

These are utilised to prevent and control infections which are spread without necessarily having close service user contact via aerosols (less than or equal to 5 μm , i.e. 0.005 mm) from the respiratory tract of one individual directly onto a mucosal surface e.g. nose, eyes, mouth, of another individual. Aerosols can travel deeper in to the respiratory system than droplets, to the endpoint (alveoli).

13. Infection Prevention and Control resources, education and training

The Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team have produced a wide range of innovative educational and IPC resources designed to assist Domiciliary Care in achieving compliance with *The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance* and CQC registration requirements.

These resources are either free to download from the website or available at a minimal cost covering administration and printing:

- IPC Policy documents for Domiciliary Care staff
- 'Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for Domiciliary Care staff'
- IPC audit tools, posters, leaflets and factsheets
- 'IPC Bulletin for Domiciliary Care staff'

In addition, we hold educational study events in North Yorkshire and York and can arrange bespoke training packages. Prices vary depending on your requirements and location.

Further information on these high quality evidence-based resources is available at www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk.

14. References

Department of Health (2015) *The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance*

Department of Health (2013) *Choice Framework for local Policy and Procedures (CFPP) 01-04 Decontamination of linen for health and social care: Social care*

Department of Health (2007) *Transport of Infectious Substances best practice guidance for microbiology laboratories*

Department of Health (2006) *Essential steps to safe, clean care*

Health and Safety Executive (2013) *Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 (the Sharps Regulations)*. HSE Information sheet www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsis7.pdf

Health and Safety Executive (2009) *The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (CDG 2009)* www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/1348/contents/made

Health and Safety Executive (1974) *Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974* London

Loveday HP, et al, epic 3: National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England *Journal of Hospital Infection* 86S1 (2014) S1-S70

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2012, Updated 2017) *Healthcare-associated infections: prevention and control in primary and community care Clinical Guideline 139*

National Patient Safety Agency (August 2010) *The national specifications for cleanliness in the NHS: Guidance on setting and measuring performance outcomes in primary care medical and dental premises*

NHS England and NHS Improvement (March 2019) *Standard infection control precautions: national hand hygiene and personal protective equipment policy*