

# IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

Issue No. 39 - September 2022

## Standard infection control precautions (SICPs)

### 'Safe management of linen' and 'Safe disposal of waste, including sharps'

This is the third in a series of bulletins discussing the SICPs which form the basis of infection prevention and control measures necessary to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognised and unrecognised sources of infection. Each bulletin provides an introduction to 2 of the 10 SICPs. As it is often not possible to tell who has or is carrying an infection, it is essential that all staff apply safe systems of working at every opportunity. The SICPs are recommended for all staff, in all care settings, at all times, for all residents, whether infection is known to be present or not. More information on each of the SICPs can be found at [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/standard-infection-control-precautions-policy-for-care-home-settings/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/standard-infection-control-precautions-policy-for-care-home-settings/). The SICPs are also covered in more detail in the 'Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for Care Homes'.

### Safe management of linen, including uniforms and workwear

- Healthcare laundry must be managed and segregated in accordance [NHS England » \(HTM 01-04\) Decontamination of linen for health and social care](#).
- Laundry used by care providers should look visibly clean, be able to withstand the high temperatures required for disinfection (up to 71°C) and should not be damaged or discoloured.
- It is important to handle used linen with care as resident's sheets, bedding, towels and clothing can become soiled with urine, faeces or other body fluids and microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses.
- Disposable apron and gloves should be worn when handling used, soiled or infected linen and clothing.
- Do not shake used linen when making or stripping beds.
- Always wash your hands after removal of gloves.
- Clean linen should be stored above floor level in a clean designated room/cupboard not used for other activities.
- Uniforms and workwear should be laundered separately from other clothing on a hot wash cycle at the highest temperature that the fabric will tolerate.



### Safe disposal of waste, including sharps

- Waste is potentially hazardous and, if not disposed of correctly, can result in injury or infection.
- Staff have a responsibility for ensuring that waste is dealt with appropriately from the point of generation to the point of final disposal.
- Department of Health (2013) *Environment and sustainability Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe management of healthcare waste*, [HTM\\_07-01\\_Final.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#) is the regulatory waste management guidance for health and care settings.
- Health and Safety Executive (2013) [Health and Safety \(Sharp Instruments in Healthcare\) Regulations 2013: A guide for employers and employees HSIS7 \(hse.gov.uk\)](#) is the regulatory guidance for health and care settings for the safe disposal of sharps.
- Waste should be disposed of immediately and as close to the point of use as possible
- Waste should be placed into the correct segregated colour coded approved waste bag or rigid container if sharp. Sharps containers should conform to UN3291 and British Standard BS7320.



#### What's new:

- Coming soon:** updated Care Home IPC resources
- National infection prevention and control manual for England** updated 1st September, 2022, version 2.2 [www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-infection-prevention-and-control/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-infection-prevention-and-control/)
- IPC training event for Care Homes** 10th October, 2022 @ £150.00 per delegate [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/infection-prevention-and-control-training-event-for-care-homes-tickets-379787182687](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/infection-prevention-and-control-training-event-for-care-homes-tickets-379787182687)

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download at [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk)

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