

IPC Bulletin for staff providing Domiciliary Care

Issue No. 34 - November 2022

Standard infection control precautions (SICPs)

'Safe management of care equipment' and 'Safe management of the care environment'

This is the fourth 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 service users, 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/sicps-and-tbps-policy-for-domiciliary-care-staff/ and also www.england.nhs.uk/national-infection-prevention-and-control-manual-nipcm-for-england/chapter-1-standard-infection-control-precautions-sicps/#1-6. The SICPs are also covered in more detail in the 'Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for Domiciliary Care staff 2nd Edition'.

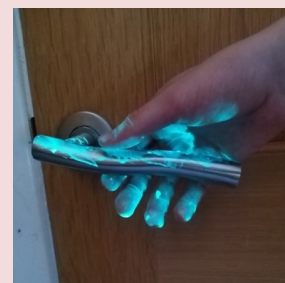
Safe management of care equipment

- Clean care equipment reduces the risk of spreading infection.
- The cleaning and disinfecting of equipment such as a commode are important to prevent service users from acquiring an infection.
- Ensure underneath surfaces and frames, e.g. commodes, raised toilet seats, shower chairs, wheelchairs, are cleaned and inspected regularly.
- When cleaning and disinfecting, clean all surfaces using an 'S' shaped pattern from clean to dirty, top to bottom, taking care not to go over the same area twice. This reduces the amount of microorganisms that may be transferred from a dirty area to a clean.
- Hands regularly come into contact with care equipment surfaces. If hands are not cleaned after contact with care equipment, they will transfer any microorganisms present. This risk is always present, but will increase if appropriate and thorough decontamination of care equipment is neglected.



Safe management of the care environment

- A clean environment reduces the cumulative risk of transmission of infection posed by microorganisms, such as bacteria and viruses, in that environment.
- Warm water and a general purpose neutral detergent, e.g. washing up liquid, are suitable for cleaning most surfaces.
- Use separate cloths for cleaning kitchens and toilets/bathrooms.
- Change the cleaning solution and cloth when it looks dirty so that you are removing dust and dirt and are not just moving it from one area to another.



What's new

- QNI IPC Champions Network event: 25/01/23 , 2.00-4.00pm via Zoom. To book please visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-network-meeting-tickets-453873386517

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download at www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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