

IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

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Standard infection control precautions (SICPs) 'Safe management of blood and body fluid spillages' and 'Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries'

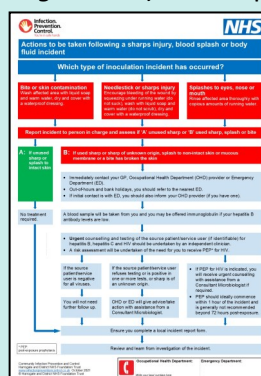
This is the final in the series of bulletins discussing the SICPs which form the basis of infection prevention and control measures necessary to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognised and unrecognised sources of infection. Each bulletin provides an introduction to 2 of 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 confirmed 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/ and also [NHS England » Chapter 1: Standard infection control precautions \(SICPs\)](#). The SICPs are also covered in the 'Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for Care Homes'.

Safe management of blood and body fluid spillages

- Blood and body fluids, e.g. urine and faeces, may contain a large number of microorganisms, such as bacteria and viruses.
- Clean up blood and body fluids promptly to reduce the risk of infection to other people.
- Spillages should be dealt with by staff who are trained in the correct procedure.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn and standard infection control precautions followed.
- Best practice is to use a spillage kit appropriate to the type of spillage, e.g. blood/blood stained body fluids or non-blood body fluids.
- Alternately, a locally approved product which conforms to: **EN17126, EN13727, EN14348, EN14476, EN13697, EN14885, EN13706, EN1650, EN1276 and EN13624** may be used for the management of blood and body fluid spillages.

Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries

- Healthcare employers, their contractors and employees have legal obligations under the *Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 (the Sharps Regulations)*. All employers are required to ensure that risks from sharps injuries are adequately assessed and appropriate control measures are in place.
- Staff should practice good sharps management at all times to minimise the risk of exposure.
- A significant exposure incident is:
 - ◊ A cut or puncture wound from a used sharp or bite
 - ◊ Blood or body fluid contamination of broken skin or mucous membrane (eyes, nose or mouth)
- As there is a potential risk of transmission of a blood-borne virus from a significant exposure, staff should be aware of the process to follow if such an event occurs.



What's new

- **Coming soon: New set of 30 IPC Care Home Policies.**
- **Save the date: IPC training event for Care Homes and Domiciliary Care staff—Monday 9th October, 2023.**
- **Queen's Nursing Institute—IPC Champions Meeting 9th May, 2023**
<https://qni.org.uk/news-and-events/events/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-champions-meeting/>.

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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