

IPC Bulletin for Staff providing Domiciliary Care

Issue No. 35 - April 2023

Standard infection control precautions (SICPs)

'Safe management of blood and body fluid spillages' and

'Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries'

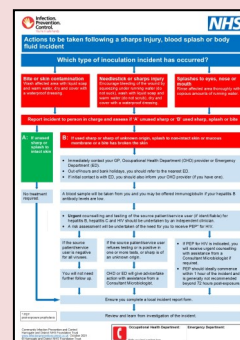
This is the final in a series of bulletins discussing the SICPs which form the basis of infection prevention and control measures necessary to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms, from both recognised and unrecognised sources of infection. Each bulletin provides an introduction to 2 of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

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 using appropriate personal protective equipment, e.g. disposable apron and gloves and facial protection if there is a risk of splashing the face.
- Do not use chlorine-based disinfectants, such as household bleach on soft furnishings, untreated wood or carpets, as it will cause 'whitening/bleaching'. For these items, only use detergent and warm water, a carpet shampoo machine or steam cleaner.
- Do not use a chlorine-based disinfectant solution directly on urine as toxic fumes will be released.
- You may use locally approved products which conforms to: **EN17126, EN13727, EN14348, EN14476, EN13697, EN14885, EN13706, EN1650, EN1276** and **EN13624** for the management of blood and body fluid spillages.

Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries

- 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
 - ◇ Splashes of blood or body fluids to the 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

- **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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