



**Infection.  
Prevention.  
Control.**  
You're in safe hands



## INTRODUCTION

The Community Infection Prevention and Control Policies for General Practice have been produced by a dynamic NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control Team, with vast experience of working with the Health and Social Care sector. These Policies describe the precautions and control measures that are essential to prevent and control infection in General Practice.

The Policies provide advice on infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and give specific guidance in relation to the IPC implications of infections, such as *C. difficile* (*Clostridioides difficile*), MRGNB (Multi-resistant Gram-negative bacteria) and MRSA (Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*). The contents incorporate national guidance and should be seen as a guide to best practice.

These evidence-based Policies have been developed with the aim that they can be adopted by General Practice, and are also suitable for adoption by other healthcare providers, e.g. Dental Practice, Podiatry. To facilitate this, we have incorporated an adoption statement in each document which should be signed and dated before accepting and utilising these documents.

Adoption of these IPC Policies will help demonstrate compliance with the *Health and Social Care Act 2008: code of practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance (Code of practice)*, Department of Health and Social Care 2022. It will also deliver the Care Quality Commission (CQC) requirement to have Infection Control Policies that describe how infection risks are assessed, prevented, detected and controlled.

Good IPC practices can substantially reduce healthcare associated infection. Every year more than 300,000 people contract an infection associated with healthcare. Therefore, effective prevention and control of infection must be part of everyday practice and consistently applied by everyone. All staff play an important part in the control of infection, staff should read and apply the principles and practices in the Policies to demonstrate commitment to high quality care and patient safety.

We have also developed a 'one-stop-shop' IPC website specifically for General Practice, Care Home, Domiciliary Care and other healthcare professionals. This innovative website has numerous resources to help organisations with CQC compliance, including guidance, posters, leaflets, educational tools, the award winning 'Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for General Practice' and the highly acclaimed 'Infection Prevention and Control CQC inspection preparation Pack for General Practice'.

It is also a requirement of the *Code of practice* that an audit programme is in place to ensure that the appropriate IPC Policies have been implemented, and the IPC CQC inspection preparation Pack can help support you with your evidence.

The website can be found at:

[www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk)

**When caring for patients in relation to any new or emerging infection, staff should refer to the national infection prevention and control guidance.**

These Policies contain public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information on our innovative infection prevention and control products and educational resources.

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Contact details for your local area	
<b>Local UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Team</b> (Enter contact details below)	
Contact details:	Tel:
<b>Local Community IPC Team (this could be your local UKHSA, Community or Hospital IPC Team)</b> (Enter contact details below)	
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