

in infection prevention and control. It is available to all healthcare staff via our website, a link to the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual can also be found there.

Our promise

NHS Staff are dedicated to your wellbeing. They know infection prevention and control is their responsibility.

In healthcare premises you can expect to see clean wards or departments and staff performing hand hygiene regularly.

What can you do?

If you intend to visit someone in a healthcare setting and you or someone at home has a cold or has been feeling unwell (especially if it's diarrhoea), stay away until you are better.

When visiting, be careful what you do – don't sit on the bed and keep the number of visitors to a minimum at any one time.

As a visitor, the most important thing you can do is make sure your hands are clean before going into the ward. Use the alcohol hand gel provided at the ward door or bedside.

Never touch dressings, drips or other equipment around the bed.

If you have any concerns, never be afraid to raise them with staff.

Service dogs can accompany visitors into our clinical areas but no other animals will be permitted unless permission is given by the local Infection Control Team.

Thank you for your help.

Where can I get more information?

Health Protection Scotland
Public Health England
The Centers for Disease Control,
Atlanta, USA

Health Protection Scotland
www.hps.scot.nhs.uk
Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>
The Centers for Disease Control,
Atlanta, USA
www.cdc.gov

Further advice can be obtained by contacting the local Infection Control Team. Leaflets are available in other languages and in large print version from the following website:

www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/infection-prevention-and-control/

Effective Date: September 2017



Information for Patients, Relatives and Carers on

The Prevention and Control of Infection



Minimising the risk of infection for patients, visitors and staff is a top priority for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC). This leaflet tells you what we are doing about it, and how you can help.

What's the problem?

An infection picked up by a patient while receiving healthcare is called a Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI).

The vast majority of patients will never pick up an HAI but it is impossible to totally eliminate the risk. Every procedure poses a small risk of infection. This is because many procedures, especially during surgery, will break the skin or the body's other natural defenses against infection.

If someone is already suffering from a serious condition (for example, diabetes, kidney failure or another long-term illness), or their immune system is not working properly for any reason, they will tend to be more at risk to possible infection.

No-one can prevent all HAI's but there are many ways in which we can reduce the risk of infection.

What are NHSGGC doing to reduce the risk of you or your relative developing an infection?

Infection Control Teams

Every healthcare facility has an Infection Control Team. Their job is to make sure that systems are in place and standards are met to reduce the risk of HAI.

They do this by:

- sharing good examples of practice with staff
- inspecting and auditing wards and departments for cleanliness

- educating staff in procedures, systems and standards
- monitoring the number of cases of infection
- developing programmes to reflect current Government Policies and Priorities.

You can speak to a member of the local Infection Control Team if you have any concerns about HAI.

All staff

All staff are committed to the prevention and control of HAI. They work closely with the local Infection Prevention and Control Teams to make sure all available resources are used effectively to minimise the risk of infection.

Informing new staff

New staff undergo an induction programme that emphasises all of the key elements that are important in the prevention and control of infection, for example hand hygiene.

Hand hygiene

We encourage visitors and staff to clean their hands on entering and leaving a ward. Staff must carry out hand hygiene procedures at five key moments:

- Before touching a patient
- Before any procedures
- If they touch blood or body fluids
- When they leave a patient
- After contact with a patient's surroundings

There is an ongoing National Hand Hygiene Campaign and NHSGGC regularly carries out hand hygiene audits.

Cleaning Services

Cleaning Services Managers, Infection Prevention and Control Teams and members of the public routinely review our cleaning standards.

NHSGGC has implemented the National Cleaning Services Monitoring Framework.

Cleanliness Champions

A high percentage of staff have undertaken a training programme to become Cleanliness Champions.

This training programme provides them with knowledge of infection prevention and control practices. Local Infection Prevention and Control Teams support staff who undertake this programme.

Education

We have a range of staff education programmes, including mandatory courses. These help staff develop infection prevention and control skills. We also have online training that is available to all staff in NHSGGC.

Infection Prevention and Control Policies

NHSGGC has an online manual which sets out the latest, proven best practice