



Infection Control Policy

December 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this Infection Control Policy is to safeguard the health and well-being of individuals receiving care, staff, and visitors by minimising the risk of infection. This policy outlines the procedures and practices that must be followed to prevent the spread of infections in our organisation.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and contractors involved in the delivery of care and services. It covers all areas of the organisation, including residential facilities, outpatient services, and community-based care.

Aims

1. Prevent Infections: Reduce the incidence of healthcare-associated infections through effective infection control measures.
2. Promote Best Practices: Ensure that staff are trained in infection prevention and control practices and adhere to guidelines and protocols.
3. Protect Vulnerable Individuals: Safeguard individuals who are at higher risk of infection due to age, health conditions, or other factors.
4. Maintain a Safe Environment: Create and maintain a clean, safe, and hygienic environment for care delivery.

Objectives

1. Hand Hygiene:
 - Implement hand hygiene protocols based on World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, promoting regular handwashing and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitisers.
 - Provide training and resources to ensure all staff understand the importance of hand hygiene.
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):
 - Ensure the availability and proper use of PPE (gloves, masks, gowns) as required for specific tasks and potential exposure to infectious materials.
 - Train staff on the correct use, disposal, and maintenance of PPE.
3. Cleaning and Disinfection:
 - Establish cleaning schedules for all areas, focusing on high-touch surfaces and equipment to reduce contamination.
 - Use appropriate disinfectants and follow manufacturer guidelines for effective cleaning.

4. Waste Management:

- Implement a safe waste disposal policy, including the segregation of general, clinical, and hazardous waste.
- Train staff on proper waste handling procedures to prevent exposure and environmental contamination.

5. Infection Surveillance:

- Monitor and record infection rates and outbreaks, analysing data to identify trends and implement preventive measures.
- Report incidents of infections in accordance with local health authority regulations.

6. Education and Training:

- Provide ongoing training for all staff on infection prevention and control, including updates on best practices and new guidelines.
- Promote awareness of infection control measures among individuals receiving care and their families.

7. Vaccination:

- Encourage and facilitate vaccinations for staff and individuals where appropriate, including influenza and other relevant immunisations.
- Maintain records of vaccination status for staff and individuals.

8. Incident Reporting:

- Establish a clear protocol for reporting and investigating incidents related to infection control failures or breaches.
- Use incident reports to inform training, policy updates, and quality improvement initiatives.

Responsibilities

- Management: Ensure the implementation of this policy and provide the necessary resources for infection control practices.
- Staff: Adhere to infection control protocols and participate in training sessions. Report any concerns or breaches in infection control immediately.

Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if necessary, in response to changes in legislation, guidance, or organisational needs. Staff feedback and infection incident reports will inform the evaluation process, ensuring continuous improvement in infection control practices.

Conclusion

By following this Infection Control Policy, we aim to protect the health and safety of all individuals within our care, ensuring a proactive approach to infection prevention and control.