



ALRESFORD SURGERY

Infection Control Annual Statement

June 2024

Purpose

This annual statement will be generated each year in accordance with the requirements of The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance. It summarises:

- Any infection transmission incidents and any action taken (these will have been reported in accordance with our Significant Event procedure)
- Details of any infection control audits undertaken, and resulting actions
- Details of any risk assessments undertaken for prevention and control of infection
- Details of staff training
- Any review and update of policies, procedures and guidelines

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Lead

Alresford Surgery has two Leads for Infection Prevention and Control: Sue Millard, Practice Nurse and Claire Elliott, Practice Nurse.

The IPC Leads are supported by: Sue Lees, Operations Manager

Sue Millard, Claire Elliott and Sue Lees have all attended ICB Infection Control Leads meetings.

Infection transmission incidents (Significant Events)

Significant events (which may involve examples of good practice as well as challenging events) are investigated in detail to see what can be learnt and to indicate changes that might lead to future improvements. All significant events are reviewed in the partner meetings and learning is cascaded to all relevant staff.

In the past year there have been no significant events raised that related to infection control.

Infection Prevention Audit and Actions

The Annual Infection Prevention and Control audits were completed by Sue Lees and Sue Millard:

April 2023 – ICB audit - Clinical, Sharps, Waste and Domestic cleaning

April 2023 – Minor Surgery audit

June 2023 – Anenta Waste management audit

July 2023 – ICB audit – General management, Staff health, Staff training, Policies, Procedure and Guidelines and Anti-Microbial stewardship.

August 2023 – Cleaning audit with Two Counties Cleaning

October 2023 – individual room audits

November 2023 – ICB audit - Environment, Hand hygiene & PPE, and Vaccines

As a result of the audit, the following things have been changed at Alresford Surgery:

Hard flooring laid in consulting rooms to replace carpet.

Pre-employment checks – vaccination history collected

Existing staff – vaccination history collected

Plugs removed from handwashing sinks

Wastebins labelled more clearly

Ongoing programme to replace fabric chairs

Alresford Surgery plan to undertake the following audits in 2024:

Annual Infection Prevention and Control audit in collaboration with Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB

Minor Surgery outcomes audit

Domestic Cleaning audit

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are carried out so that best practice can be established and then followed. In the last year the following risk assessments were carried out / reviewed:

Legionella (Water) Risk Assessment: The practice has conducted/reviewed its water safety risk assessment to ensure that the water supply does not pose a risk to patients, visitors or staff.

Immunisation: As a practice we ensure that all of our staff are up to date with their Hepatitis B immunisations and offered any occupational health vaccinations applicable to their role (i.e. MMR, Seasonal Flu). We take part in the National Immunisation campaigns for patients and offer vaccinations in house and via home visits to our patient population.

Curtains: The NHS Cleaning Specifications state the curtains should be cleaned or if using disposable curtains, replaced every 6 months in treatment rooms and every 2 years in consulting rooms. To this effect we use disposable curtains and ensure they are changed according to this schedule. The window blinds are very low risk and therefore do not require a particular cleaning regime other than regular vacuuming to prevent build-up of dust. The modesty curtains although handled by clinicians are never handled by patients and clinicians have been reminded to always remove gloves and clean hands after an examination and before touching the curtains. All curtains are regularly reviewed and changed if visibly soiled.

Toys: We have no toys in the practice

Cleaning specifications, frequencies and cleanliness: We have added a cleaning specification and frequency policy poster in the waiting room to inform our patients of what they can expect in the way of cleanliness. We also have a cleaning specification and frequency policy which our cleaners and staff

work to. An assessment of cleanliness is conducted by the cleaning team and logged. This includes all aspects in the surgery including cleanliness of equipment.

Hand washing sinks: The practice has clinical hand washing sinks in every room for staff to use. Some of our sinks do not meet the latest standards for sinks but we have removed plugs, covered overflows and reminded staff to turn off taps that are not 'hands free' with paper towels to keep patients safe. We have also replaced our liquid soap with wall mounted soap dispensers to ensure cleanliness.

Carpets: Carpets in consulting rooms have been replaced with vinyl flooring.

Training

All our staff undertake elearning modules in infection prevention and control appropriate to their role. In addition, infection control audits are discussed at clinical team meetings and infection control topics are circulated on our staff newsletter.

Policies

All Infection Prevention and Control related policies have been reviewed and are in date for this year.

Policies relating to Infection Prevention and Control are available to all staff and are reviewed and updated bi-annually and all are amended on an on-going basis as current advice, guidance and legislation changes. Infection Control policies are circulated amongst staff for reading and discussed at meetings on an annual basis.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of everyone to be familiar with this Statement and their roles and responsibilities under this.

Review date

June 2025

Responsibility for Review:

The Infection Prevention and Control Lead and the Operations Manager are responsible for reviewing and producing the Annual Statement.

Sue Lees, Operations Manager

Sue Millard, Practice Nurse

For and on behalf of the Alresford Surgery