



MCare
Northern Ireland

Policy 28 - Infection Prevention and Control

Key Principles for Infection Prevention and Control

Healthcare workers, Service Users and families can be exposed to infection through their normal daily lives and within the healthcare setting. Infection Prevention and Control is a fundamental component of Induction Training and ongoing annual Refresher Training. The Northern Ireland Regional Infection Prevention and Control Manual is the key source document used in staff training and all staff are encouraged to regularly inspect the manual online at <https://www.niinfectioncontrolmanual.net/> (any staff who do not have access to a home computer may access this site from one of the office computers). A copy of this manual is also held at the Company office.

Limiting transmission of infections in a domiciliary care setting requires:

- Timely recognition of cases
- Consistent and correct implementation of infection control precautions
- Segregation or cohorting of patients with infections away from those who have other medical conditions.
- Restricting ill workers from attending work
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection
- Education/training of care staff about the transmission and prevention of infections.
- Treatment of Service User's and staff with antivirals which can reduce duration and infectivity of the illness (subject to DoH guidance).
- Vaccinating staff and Service Users when appropriate.

Standard Infection Control Precautions/Principles

Standard infection control principles are a set of broad statements of good practice to minimise exposure to and transmission of a wide variety of micro-organisms. These include:

Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene is the single most important practice to reduce the transmission of infectious agents in healthcare settings and is an essential element of Standard Infection Control Principles. All staff receive training on this at Induction and The Seven Step Technique forms the basis of Hand Hygiene training. Staff are also made

aware at training that Alcohol hand rub is only to be used in situations where hands are socially clean ie. not soiled. Alcohol hand rub should not be used in situations where MRSA, c.difficile or any other diarrhoeal disease is present – in these situations, WASH YOUR HANDS using antiseptic solution, adopting the Seven Step Technique.

Respiratory Transmission

All staff are trained to minimise potential infection transmission through good hygienic measures by applying the principles of the “Catch it, bin it, kill it” campaign as follows:

- cover nose and mouth with disposable single-use tissues when sneezing, coughing, wiping and blowing noses
- immediately dispose of used tissues in nearest waste bin
- wash hands after coughing, sneezing, using tissues, or contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects
- keep hands away from the mucous membranes of the eyes and nose

Certain Service Users may need assistance with containment of respiratory secretions; those who are immobile will need a receptacle (e.g., a plastic bag) readily at hand for immediate disposal of tissues and a supply of hand wipes and tissues

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Staff must wear the appropriate PPE to protect themselves from contamination and reduce the risk of cross-infection. Gloves supplied by the Company must be worn at all times. The Company supply Clear Powder Free Vinyl Gloves to all staff – in the event that any member of staff reports an allergy to this type of glove, arrangements are in place with our supplier to make available alternative suitable gloves. Gloves should be removed immediately after use, disposed of appropriately, and hand hygiene performed. No attempt should be made to wash gloves for subsequent reuse.

Staff uniforms

Soiled uniforms should be transported home in a tied plastic bag and washed.

Uniforms should be laundered in a domestic washing machine, separate to other items. The wash cycle should be 60°C in a load not more than half the machine’s capacity in order to ensure adequate rinsing and dilution. They should then be dried/tumbled-dried and hot ironed.

Registered Manager

Date ____ / ____ / ____

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