



INTRODUCTION

The Community Infection Prevention and Control Policies for Domiciliary Care staff have been produced by a dynamic NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control Team, with a 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 Domiciliary Care settings, e.g. service user's own home, supported living, sheltered housing complex.

The Policies provide advice on infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and also give guidance in the infection prevention and control of specific infections, such as *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*), Multi-resistant Gram-negative bacteria (MRGNB), Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The contents incorporate national guidance, should be seen as best practice and applied in conjunction documented risk assessments where required. The principles in the *National infection and control manual (NIPCM) for England*, NHS England, should be applied across all care settings (including domiciliary care), complementing specific guidance produced for those settings, such as these Policies.

These evidence-based Policies have been developed with the aim that they can be adopted by Domiciliary Care providers. To facilitate this, we have incorporated an adoption statement in each document that should be signed and dated. 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, updated 2022. It will also deliver the Care Quality Commission (CQC) requirement to have IPC Policies that describe how infection risks are assessed, prevented, detected and controlled.

It is a requirement of the *Code of practice* that an audit programme is in place to ensure that the appropriate IPC Policies have been implemented. The CQC do look for evidence of continuous improvement which can be demonstrated by an appropriate IPC audit programme and implementation of related action plans.

Good infection prevention and control, including cleanliness and prudent antimicrobial stewardship (AMS), is essential to minimise the spread of infection. 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 service user safety.

We have also developed a ‘one-stop-shop’ Infection Prevention and Control website specifically for Domiciliary Care, Care Homes, General Practice and other healthcare professionals. This innovative website has numerous resources to help organisations with CQC compliance, including guidance, posters, packs, leaflets, educational tools, including the award winning ‘Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for Domiciliary Care staff.’ The website can be found at:

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information on our innovative Infection Prevention and Control educational resources.

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Contact details for your local area

Local UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Team
 (Enter contact details below)

Contact details:	Tel:
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Local Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team (this could be your local UKHSA or Hospital IPC Team)
 (Enter contact details below)

Contact details:	Tel:
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