

**Barrack Lane and Stoke Park Medical Centre Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Annual
Statement January to December 2022**

IPC lead for the Practice is Mary Sentance (Practice Nurse) overseen by Practice Manager Mrs P Ashbee and supported by Senior Nurse Mrs P Sibthorp

Antimicrobial Steward is Dr E Ahmadi

This annual statement will be generated in December each year and will summarise :

- Any infection transmission incidents and actions taken
- Details of IPC audits/risk assessments undertaken and actions taken
- Details of staff training
- Details of IPC advice to patients
- Any review/update of IPC policies and procedures

2022 Overview

2022 has seen continued developments and improvements in Infection Prevention and Control, within the Practice and through leadership from the Health Security Agency.

In May 2022 the HSA published National Infection Prevention guidance. This followed on from 2021 Healthcare Cleanliness guidelines that were already in place.

The Suffolk and North East Essex ICB now have an active Infection Prevention Team who are proving support and putting in place relevant training.

Infection and Prevention Lead Nurse Mary Sentance completed the Royal College of Nursing Infection Prevention Course in January 2022. The assessment was a Quality Improvement Project for which Mary chose to undertake an audit of urine specimen collection. The purpose of the project was to ensure that the clinical team were compliant with the Health Protection Agency guidance for diagnostic testing for urinary tract infection. The audit and an education intervention has reduced unnecessary collecting and dipping of urine samples thereby reducing infection risk.

Mary has presented her audit at the Infection Prevention Society regional conference and also at the Suffolk Practice Nurse forum.

The Practice has an Infection Prevention notice board which is regularly updated.

Staff Training

All staff are required to complete Mandatory Infection Prevention Training. The current compliance rate is 92% with confidence that this will be 100% at the end of the year.

IPC issues/updates are discussed regularly throughout the year in nurses meeting.

Staff are encouraged to raise any IPC concerns with the practice manager or IPC lead nurse.

Audits

External Audit

The Practice underwent an external Infection Prevention and Control audit achieving 86% compliance - 'good'. All actions points raised in the report have been addressed.

Hand Hygiene

An annual hand hygiene audit was conducted on all staff in September with good compliance in correct technique.

Staff are aware of the importance of hand hygiene in reducing healthcare associated infections.

Clinical Room Audit

The IP&C lead nurse undertakes a monthly clinical room audit. From this, couch repairs have been undertaken and any waste bins that were not foot pedal operated have been replaced.

Legionnaires Monitoring

In keeping with Health and Safety Executive recommendations, monthly water temperature testing is undertaken and corrective action taken where required.

Sharps and Waste management audit

A full audit of sharps management was undertaken in October 2022 and any shortfalls such as labelling of sharps bins, brought up to standard.

IPC Advice to Patients

The Practice has been active in encouraging patients to be protected against winter respiratory viruses: Covid influenza and pneumococcal alongside other immunisations routinely offered such as Shingles. The nursing staff have, since 2020, played an active part in the Ivry Street Covid vaccination hub.

The Practice is active in inviting children for routine childhood immunisations and has vaccination clinics throughout the week at both Stoke Park and Barrack Lane Medical Centres. The nurses understand the need to address vaccine hesitancy sensitively and empathetic to parents concerns whilst also providing education regarding the importance of immunisation to protect against life threatening infection in children.

Significant Events

There was one reported significant event relating to IPC in the previous twelve months. This was a concern raised by our Clinical Waste disposal company.

IPC Policies

The IPC Policies have been updated and expanded to provide more detailed information and advice. The Policies have been brought in line with current National Infection Prevention Guidelines.

Plans for 2023

Audits and IP&C monitoring will continue at Barrack Lane and Stoke Park Practices in order to uphold good practice.

The IP&C lead nurse continues to have an interest in Quality/Service Improvement.

Mary Sentance (Practice Nurse) (December 2022)