



DE~BUGGED

Focusing on the provision of Clean, Safe Care...

Infection Prevention & Control Newsletter provided by Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust

SELF AUDIT—GIVE IT A GO AND PROVE TO YOURSELF THAT YOUR STANDARDS ARE HIGH



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The Infection Prevention and Control Team continue to promote their short audit tool/questionnaire (only one piece of A4 paper). It sets out to provide healthcare staff with a quick checklist that they can refer to and consider whether their practices are perfect with regard to the key infection prevention and control areas highlighted by the tool. The sections include Hand Hygiene, Personal Protective Equipment, Decontamination, Sharps and Waste Handling and knowledge of key facts such as how to deal with certain scenarios and where to access information. If you would like to have a copy contact Louise Hough on 01386 502552 or visit www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk.

If you require further information about any item in this newsletter please contact the Infection Prevention & Control Nurses on 01386 502552

Please be alert in your workplace and check that all aspects of infection prevention and control are in place ensuring consistent provision of clean, safe care and minimising infection 100% of the time.



NOROVIRUS? BUT IT IS THE SUMMER...

Although it is never anticipated, clusters of cases of viral gastroenteritis can continue to be identified in community and healthcare settings during the summer months. Please keep your area safe and discourage visitors who are or have been either unwell with diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the last 48 hours or have been caring for someone in the last 48 hours who has been symptomatic. It is imperative that **staff are aware of the need to remain vigilant when accepting admissions/transfers to ensure that they have asked questions relating to prevalence of symptoms within a ward/area and in the individual being transferred including whether they have previously been positive.** Please ask these questions for all transfers or admissions and do not rely on others to provide the information. **Contact one of the Infection Prevention and Control Nurses on 01386 502552 for advice.**



80% OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ARE TRANSFERRED BY TOUCH

Did you know that when we talk about "Touch" it is not simply person-to-person contact., it can be touching of food, touching of one's own mouth, eyes, and nose.

☞ Touching the face with contaminated hands spreads respiratory illnesses like colds and the flu. Proper hand hygiene is reported to reduce respiratory infections by close to 20%.

☞ Touching food with contaminated hands spreads food-borne illnesses and can lead to diarrhoea. Proper hand hygiene can reduce this by around 40%.

In 1847, a Hungarian obstetrician showed that hand washing greatly reduced infections, that was over 150 years ago and times have changed. These claims have been proven true many times and it is now a well-known fact that indeed, hand washing greatly reduces the spread of disease. Although 95% of people claim to practice proper hand hygiene studies still continue to show that actually only 67% of people do.

Remember clean hands save lives.
Practice and Promote...



INFECTION PREVENTION CALENDAR

Your summer holiday months...

Beating Infection with a Smile

(Adapted from Infection Prevention Society Calendar).



JULY: Fun in the sun?.....Have your vaccinations first.

AUGUST: hot dog! Just because I'm sizzling on the skin doesn't mean I'm cooked within. Beware food poisoning.

SEPTEMBER: Flea and Tick season continues. Don't get ticked off—remain vigilant...



VISIT
www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk
click on Infection Prevention and Control for latest information.

Many infections are identified following travel, always remember to consider where someone has been in the previous 21 days and whether this may be linked to their diagnosis. If you are working within GP practice make sure you display the new CCG poster on entry to the building.



SHINGLES VACCINE REMINDER 29th June 2016

Public Health England is reminding those aged 79 years who have previously been offered the shingles vaccine but haven't received it, to ensure they have it before their 80th birthday. For the 2015 to 2016 programme, people aged 78 years on 1 September 2015 have also been offered the vaccine as part of this catch-up programme. In addition, those eligible for the vaccine in the previous two years of the programme, but who missed out, remain eligible until their 80th birthday.



WASTE - IT'S IN THE BAG OR IS IT THE BIN - BUT WHICH ONE?

Waste is something we all deal with every day of our working lives but maybe it is something we don't always give a great deal of thought to. The environment we work in, as well as the volume and nature of waste generated, all influence the right route for disposal. As healthcare workers we are all responsible for our own actions, including waste segregation and the person who generates the waste is individually responsible for the safe disposal of it. Within Worcestershire non-acute NHS settings we have three main categories of waste. Black bags for household waste, yellow with black stripes for offensive waste and all yellow for hazardous waste (infectious/pharmaceutical).



**Know the waste
and
Know the bag...**

It appears quite simple, but there are times when it will depend on what the item has actually been used for and we would always advise that if at all in doubt dispose of in the yellow hazardous bag as it is the only bagged waste stream that is incinerated. All bins within healthcare settings should be rigid, enclosed, foot operated and placed where they are most needed. Full Bags must be labeled/tied and stored securely whilst awaiting disposal. **THINK WASTE; THINK SEGREGATE...**

Not everything can go into one of the three bags mentioned. **Green/Blue pharmaceutical bins are available for the safe disposal of medicinal waste including empty medicine bottles and blister packs.** Magpie boxes are for the disposal of glass and aerosols such as coffee jars and empty cans of foam cleanser and recycling bins are provided in many areas for the disposal of plastics, cardboard and non-confidential papers.



In addition there are also two sharps bins for the safe disposal of sharps. **The all yellow one is for the majority of sharps, including those contaminated with blood, body fluids, medicinal products and partly discharged syringes,** and the one with a **purple lid for sharps contaminated with cytotoxic/cytostatic medicinal products.** Yellow posters listing all the hazardous medication that is required to be disposed of in the purple lidded bins should be available in all areas and can be obtained from Infection Prevention and Control.

Remember posters are available from the Infection Prevention and Control Nurses or by visiting www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk.

UPDATED ZIKA GUIDANCE FOR PRIMARY CARE

Public Health England updated three guidance documents in relation to Zika virus infection, all are available on www.gov.uk:



- 👉 [Zika virus infection: guidance for primary care](#) - contains updated information on: sexual transmission; symptoms; diagnostic testing; complications and unusual presentations.
- 👉 [Zika virus: interim algorithm for assessing pregnant women with a history of travel](#) - revised definition of active transmission areas (now 3 months).
- 👉 [Zika virus: advice for women returning from areas with active Zika virus transmission](#) - revised advice about sexual transmission and deferral of pregnancy.

QUESTION TIME

What is antibiotic resistance?

Antibiotics are drugs used to treat infections caused by bacteria. Sometimes bacteria develop the ability to survive antibiotic treatment, this is called antibiotic resistance.



When a strain of bacteria becomes resistant to an antibiotic it means this antibiotic will no longer be effective for treating the infections they cause. Don't forget to visit www.antibioticguardian.com and make your pledge to safe guard antibiotics.