

## Infection Control Annual Statement – July 2020

### Purpose

This annual statement will be generated each year in July 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 actions undertaken
- 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

Abbeywell Surgery has 1 GP Lead for Infection Prevention and Control: Dr William Fraser.

The IPC Lead is supported by: Sarah Orson, Practice Nurse and Claire Cairncross, Practice Manager.

Sarah and Claire attended an IPC training course in 2014. Sarah has been attending Infection Prevention forums three times a year – March and June meetings this year were held remotely.

### 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 monthly meetings and learning is cascaded to all relevant staff. In the past year there have been 3 significant events raised that related to infection control.

### Infection Prevention Audit and Actions

The Annual Infection Prevention and Control audit was completed by Sarah Orson in February 2020.

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

- Meeting with the cleaning company.
- New patient chairs for the waiting rooms and consultation rooms at both sites.
- Switched to disposable tourniquets.
- An audit of minor operations including joint injections showed 1 infection over the last 12 months.
- An audit of implant and coil insertions showed no infections over the 12 months.
- A phlebotomy audit was completed in September 2019.
- A cold chain audit was completed in June 2020.

Abbeywell Surgery plan to undertake the following audits in 2020/2021:

- Annual Infection Prevention and Control audit
- Joint injection audit
- Decontamination audit
- Phlebotomy audit

- Sharps bin audit
- Cold chain 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:

- Staff have received Covid-19 risk assessment with an offer of a 1:1 meeting too.
- Maternity risk assessments have been done.
- Work station assessment for secretaries. New chair ordered and reports supplied to PAs from physiotherapist
- New policies have been developed regarding social distancing. New signs have been put up relating to social distancing. The use of video consulting has been developed. Shielded staff have been working remotely. A rota was set up so all staff were working at the cold staff from March to May.

**Legionella (Water) Risk Assessment:** Assured Air and water limited have conducted a risk assessment for water safety to ensure that the water supply does not pose a risk to patients, visitors or staff. They carry out monthly water temperature checks.

**Immunisation:** As a practice we ensure that all of our staff are up to date with their Hepatitis B immunisations and offer 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. To this effect we use disposable curtains and change them every 6 months. It was recommended that curtains were removed from consulting and treatment rooms at Nightingale at the present time. 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:** NHS Cleaning Specifications recommend that all toys are cleaned regularly and we therefore provide only wipeable toys in waiting / consultation rooms. Currently all toys have been removed from the waiting/consultation rooms.

**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 and reminded staff to turn of taps that are not 'hands free' with paper towels to keep patients safe. We have wall mounted soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers to ensure cleanliness.

## Training

90% of Clinical staff and Non-Clinical staff have completed e-learning in infection control.

Sarah has attended the IPC Practice Nurse forum in June 2020. The next one is planned for September 2020.

## Policies

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

Policies relating to Infection Prevention and Control are available to all staff and are reviewed and updated annually, and all are amended on an on-going basis as current advice, guidance and legislation changes. Infection Control policies are stored on intradoc and G:drive for staff to access.

### **Responsibility**

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

### **Review date**

July 2021

### **Responsibility for Review**

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

William Fraser, GP.

Sarah Orson, Practice Nurse.

Claire Cairncross, Practice Manager.

For and on behalf of Abbeywell Surgery.