 

**Annual Infection Protection and Control Report**

**November 2023**

**Debbie Hughes - Lead Nurse**

Newport Pagnell Medical Centre (NPMC) has policies for Infection Prevention and Control. These policies are relevant to all employees and Partners of NPMC and Willen including

non-clinical staff, trainees, and observers. It is expected that the policies will be adhered to.

The policy is available to access in the Agilio, (formerly Clarity) Teamnet and available to all.

The policies are reviewed by the Lead Nurse and updates to all staff are reported via Agilio Teamnet.

The employers and staff of NPMC are committed to minimising the risk of infection and ensuring safety of patients. Our aim is to maintain the outstanding grade from the CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspection September 2016 and maintained in 2019 in patient safety.

**Management Structure for Infection prevention and control**

Practice Manager - Lynn Becks

Infection prevention and control lead - Debbie Hughes, Lead Nurse

BLMK Integrated care board (BLMKICB) Patient Safety and Infection Control Lead - Jenny Brooks.

**Infection control training**

Staff are encouraged to keep up to date by using our online training facility, Bluestream. This online system records all training and can be accessed by the member of staff or the line manager or team leader. They are also able to access online training via external sources and face to face training where available.

As we progressed through 2022-23, we have gradually returned to some face-to-face training, this has proved very popular.

Infection prevention and control training is mandatory and should be completed every year for clinicians and two yearly for non-clinicians. Training is reviewed at annual appraisal by the line manager.

Infection control training is discussed with all new members of staff at their induction meeting with the Lead Nurse.

**Audits 2023**

**Infection control training audit August 2023**

This audit was completed in November and its recorded that 84% of the clinical staff completed infection control training online within the last year. This is an increase on the previous year. Although this is better there is still room for improvement so the lead nurse and team leaders will continue to chase up team members who have not completed this training.

**Infection control audit January - June 2023**

This takes place annually. It was conducted by the Lead Nurse and her deputy. Willen was completed in January 2023 and NPMC between March and June 2023. The rooms at both sites were generally very good; there were only minor issues that have since been rectified or added to a long-term action plan.

**Upgrades since the last report in 2022**

Sinks in some rooms have been replaced as part of our ongoing development plan and acrylic splash backs are being added behind sinks to make it easier for cleaning - this is ongoing.

An action plan is still in place to address areas in the building that need an upgrade, this is an ongoing process.

**Hand washing audit June - August**

Hand hygiene is the single most important measure in infection prevention and control. All the clinical staff had an opportunity to test their skills at handwashing by using the ultraviolet disclosing solution. Self-assessment and a quiz took place between June and August 2023 and the results were pleasing, we achieved 83% compliance in performing the handwashing

self-assessment and knowledge around handwashing was very good.

**Infectious outbreaks during 2022/23**

**Group A Streptococcus infections -** **December 2022**

Some patients of our practice were affected by Group A Streptococcus infections during the winter 2022/23. There was a shortage of antibiotics in our community pharmacies but a system was developed within NPMC to locate the pharmacies who held the appropriate antibiotics. This was shared with all prescribers so prescriptions could be electronically directed to the correct pharmacies.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE)**

We continue to have a constant supply of PPE available to us for our staff and patients should it be needed. The nursing teams are now back wearing uniform. Clinicians who do not normally wear a uniform may continue to wear scrubs if they feel there is a clinical risk.

**Covid vaccinations**

Since the last report we took part in the Covid spring booster campaign which took place between April and June 2023. We vaccinated the recommended risk groups including housebound and carehomes.

In October 2023 we performed autumn boosters for the same group again and included the seasonal flu vaccination. We held clinics inhouse and those that didn’t wish to attend the practice were directed to local community pharmacies for flu vaccinations or the Open University in Milton Keynes for covid vaccinations.

At the end of October, we had completed 3,342 autumn covid boosters and 3,784 seasonal flu injections including children’s nasal flu. We are planning mop up clinics in November.

**Waste collection**

We had an issue with sharps boxes lids not being safely closed before disposal. We have addressed the problem and introduced a new system to ensure everyone’s safety. This appears to work well and Stericycle, our waste services provider, have not raised any further concerns.

**Antibiotic Prescribing**

The clinical team at NPMC are committed to reducing the amount of antibiotics used and they are only used if appropriate. The team aim to meet all the targets set by the prescribing team at BLMK ICB. Any financial reward is reinvested into NPMC to benefit patient care.

**Clostridium–Difficille infection (C-Difficille)**

We have had 3 case of C difficile infections since the last report, following investigation this was not to do with antibiotics prescribed at NPMC. This result shows evidence of good antibiotic management in patients susceptible to the infection. We continue to follow BLMKICB guidance on the Management of Infection in Primary Care.

**Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus infection (MRSA)**

We had 0 cases of MRSA since the last report.

# Domestic Cleaning at NPMC and Willen

Our contract cleaning company, Sidekick Cleaning Limited continue to provide a domestic cleaning service at NPMC and at Willen. The facilities lead and Ops manager meet monthly to address any issues or concerns. These are escalated to the Lead Nurse, as appropriate. All team members at NPMC and Willen are encouraged to report any issues to the facilities lead.

Training for the domestic cleaning staff is delivered by the British Institute of Cleaning Science Standards (BICS). The Area Supervisors train the cleaners and then assess them on their abilities and document this via the ‘Record of Induction and Training’. The cleaners are also trained in handling clinical waste. The cleaning team follows a cleaning specification document and audits are performed and fed back to us monthly.

Hepatitis B vaccination is offered to the cleaning team and a record is kept. The cleaning team has access to policies relating to sharps, needle stick Injuries and accidental exposure to blood/bodily fluids.

Spot checks on cleaning and hygiene are performed by the Area Supervisor.

**Isolation Facilities**

Dedicated isolation facilities are no longer available at NPMC or Willen due to the need for rooms for consultations. If we are made aware of a patient with a potential infection, a side room is made available.

NPMC and Willen has an Isolation Policy available to all staff. Decontamination takes place before the room is re-used. To minimise risk, home visits and telephone/video consultations are offered.

**Immunosuppressed Patients (Patients with Reduced Immunity)**

Immunosuppressed patients acquire infections more easily and therefore there is a potential risk when they attend the surgery for appointments. Vulnerable patients, especially those receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy are offered the opportunity to wait in an area away from the public and the clinician is notified of their whereabouts. This relies on the patient informing reception on their arrival or at the time of making the appointment.

**Occupational Health Vaccinations**

All staff who are at risk of contracting Hepatitis B by the nature of their work, are offered vaccination against Hepatitis B and a blood test to confirm immunity. At induction new members of staff are requested to bring in details of their immunisations and blood tests applicable to their role. A member of the PN team or the lead nurse will check immunisations are in date and advise as appropriate.

Records and immunisation status for all patient facing staff are recorded in a password protected file accessible by the Management team only. NPMC are in the process of checking all patient facing staff for immunity or vaccination for chicken pox, measles mumps and German measles (MMR), diphtheria tetanus and polio status.

All the NPMC team are offered and encouraged to have their annual flu immunisation and their covid vaccinations as required. Promotion within the practice continues so we ensure as many of our staff as possible are protected against the virus’s.

**Staff Sickness Policy**

NPMC has a Staff Sickness Policy. This ensures that members of staff when unwell do not attend work and spread infection. NPMC use a private Occupational Health facility in Milton Keynes should the need arise. Staff sickness is managed by the Team Leaders. All ‘return to work’ interviews are undertaken by the Team Leader to ensure staff are fit to return to their normal duties and adaptions are made if required.

**Uniform Policy**

NPMC has returned to the pre covid Uniform Policy. Those clinicians who don’t need to wear a uniform wear clothing that is smart, clean, and fit for purpose. If preferred a non-uniform clinicians may wear scrubs Everyone is provided with a name badge, this should be visible when performing duties at NPMC and Willen.

**Sterilising of Equipment**

Autoclaving of instruments does not take place at NPMC or Willen. “Single use” medical instruments are used and are then disposed of in an appropriate waste stream.

**Clinical Waste**

A policy is available for all staff to access. All clinical waste is disposed of using the most appropriate waste stream. Orange bags and filled sharps bins are stored in an area away from the public and are collected twice weekly by Stericycle. This company have a contract to perform this work for BLMKICB.

**Reporting Notifiable Diseases**

All notifiable diseases are reported following the UK health security agency guidance (formerly the Health Protection Agency)

This annual infection control report is available for all staff in Agilio, (formerly Clarity) Teamnet and for the public. It is on the website and in the Patient Information manual in all patient waiting areas.

**Document History**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Issue number | Date | Responsible | Date for review |
| 1st edition | August 2012 | Debbie Hughes  Lead Nurse | August 2013 |
| version 7 | December 2018 | Debbie Hughes  Lead Nurse | December 2019 |
| Version 8 | November 2019 | Debbie Hughes  Lead Nurse | November 2020 |
| Version 9 | June 2021 Delayed due to the Covid pandemic | Debbie Hughes  Lead Nurse | December 2021 |
| Version 10 | March 2nd, 2022, delay due to implementing the covid vaccination programme | Debbie Hughes  Lead Nurse | March 2023 |
| Version11 | November 2023  Delay due to audits | Debbie Hughes  Lead Nurse | November 2024 |