

Infection Prevention and Control Annual Statement

April 2025

North Devon Hospice is committed to providing safe and effective care routinely and consistently in a clean and managed premises in order to minimise the risk of infection. Systems in place will provide assurance of compliance with the Health & Social Care Act 2008—updated 2022 (Regulated activities) Regulations (2014) and specifically compliance with the fundamental standards contained in:

- Regulation 12— Safe Care and Treatment
- Regulation 15—Premises and Equipment
- Regulation 18—Staffing

Standards are achieved by ensuring compliance with the ten criteria of the *Code of Practice for the prevention and control of infections (2008—updated 2022)*

Responsible Persons

Infection Prevention & Control Lead/ Decontamination Lead:

- ❖ Naomi Pritchard (Clinical Quality Assurance and Improvement Lead)

Environmental Cleaning Lead:

- ❖ Kath Hills (Housekeeping Supervisor)

Director of Infection Prevention and Control (DIPC):

- ❖ Jo Dedes (Director of Care)

Purpose of the IPC Statement

- ✓ **Demonstrate Compliance:** To show adherence to the Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections.
- ✓ **Transparency:** To provide patients, staff, and regulatory authorities with information about our infection control efforts.
- ✓ **Continuous Improvement:** To identify areas for improvement in infection control and outline plans for future actions.

North Devon Hospice Annual IPC Statement is published on our website and intranet annually in April and is a statement of the following:

- Infection Transmission Incidents
- IPC Audits
- Risk Assessments
- Staff Training
- Policy and Guideline Reviews
- Improvements
- Planned Improvements

This IPC statement period is April 2024 - March 2025

Infection Transmission Incidents

Any instances of infection transmission and the subsequent actions taken.

- Infection transmission incidents: None
- Actions taken: not applicable

IPC Audits

Details of any audits conducted to assess infection control practices and the actions that followed.

- IPC audits completed:
 - Monthly hand hygiene audits (IPU & Community)
 - Monthly IPC integrity audits (mattresses, mattress covers and recliner armchairs)
 - Quarterly IPC walk about audits (BBE, Uniform, Cleanliness, Clutter, Sinks & taps)
 - Annual IPC audit
- Actions taken:
 - Bare Below elbow campaign of posters and raising awareness
 - Refresher training at community team meetings about 5 moments of hand hygiene
 - 1 mattress cover decommissioned as failed IPC integrity audit
 - Installed wall mounted leaflet holders to house blood test forms
 - Improved vase storage in the sluice room
 - Built new equipment store outside to house excess IPU equipment
 - Upgraded sinks and taps in Sluice room, Treatment room, IPU staff toilet and Assisted bathroom
 - Upgraded our IPU reception chairs with improved IPC compliance fabrics
 - Replaced re-fillable hand soap dispensers with cartridge

Risk Assessments

Information on risk assessments undertaken for preventing and controlling infections, as well as any resulting actions.

- Risk assessments completed:
 - Safety Needles (Annual) – updated April 2024
 - Top up liquid soap dispensers in clinical area - closed May 2024
- Actions taken:
 - All top up liquid soap dispensers replaced

Staff Training

A summary of staff training in infection prevention and control.

- Staff training provision:
 - Infection Prevention & Control Tier 2 e-learning – 89% (April 2025)
 - Food hygiene e-learning – 97% (April 2025)
- Actions taken:
 - Ensure staff have allocated mandatory training time

Policy and Guideline Reviews

A review and update of our infection control policies, procedures, and guidelines.

| IPC policy, procedure or guideline | Last reviewed | Review due | Updates |
|--|---------------|------------|--|
| NDH IPC Policy | Dec 2023 | Dec 2025 | Review |
| IPS Infection Prevention & Control Manual of Policies and Procedures | Jun 2023 | Jun 2025 | Review |
| NDH Inoculation Injury Procedure | Jul 2024 | Jul 2026 | New provider |
| Bed and Mattress Cleaning procedure | Apr 2024 | Apr 2026 | Review |
| Cleaning Policy | Jan 2025 | Jan 2027 | Re-written to comply with NHS Cleaning Standards |
| Cleaning Guidelines | Jan 2025 | Jan 2027 | Re-written to comply with NHS Cleaning Standards |
| Pandemic Contingency Plan | Apr 2025 | Apr 2027 | Review |

Infection Prevention Control Improvements

Any improvements made to infection prevention and control processes or practices

- NHS Cleaning Standards - working towards fully implementing the NHS Cleaning standards
 - NHS Cleaning Standards training and support for IPC lead
 - Developing our Cleaning Specification and Responsibility Framework
 - Improving our cleaning schedules
 - Working to transfer cleaning schedules onto our digital platform
- Broadening IPC awareness – making the IPC agenda and workload visible across the organisation
 - IPC as standing item on Health & Safety committee agenda

Planned Improvements

Any improvements planned for next year

- Fully implement the NHS cleaning standards
 - cleanliness star rating based on a schedule of audits
- Replace patient bedroom sinks to be fully IPC compliant

This IPC Statement will be updated in April 2026

Signed by:



Naomi Pritchard (Clinical Quality Assurance & Improvement Lead) – IPC Lead

On behalf of North Devon Hospice