

Infection Prevention and Control Annual Statement

April 2026

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 2025 - March 2026

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, Sharps bins, equipment storage)
 - 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
 - 3 mattresses and 2 mattress cover decommissioned as failed IPC integrity audit. 1 armchair repaired and back in use.
 - Adjustments to new equipment store outside to optimise storage for excess IPU equipment
 - Allocated new equipment storage space in the IPU for large immediate use equipment such as hoist.
 - Introduced new Sharps Management Flowchart to cover process for sharps bins brought in by patients or used by our community teams.

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
- Actions taken:
 - None required

Staff Training

A summary of staff training in infection prevention and control.

- Staff training provision:
 - Infection Prevention & Control Tier 2 e-learning – 90% (April 2026)
 - Food hygiene e-learning – 93% (April 2026)
- 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 2026	Apr 2028	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
 - Created our Cleaning Specification and Responsibility Framework
 - Launched digital cleaning schedules for housekeeping in line with NHS Cleaning Standards
- Sinks and taps – changed all IPC non-compliant sinks and taps upgraded and now complaint

Planned Improvements

Any improvements planned for next year

- Fully implement the NHS cleaning standards
 - cleanliness star rating based on a schedule of audits
- Improve our ability to report on infections

This IPC Statement will be updated in April 2027

Signed by:



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

On behalf of North Devon Hospice