**Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group**

**Infection Prevention and Control Newsletter**

**September 2021**

**Welcome**

Welcome to the September 2021 edition of the IP&C Newsletter, we hope that you managed to have some downtime during the Summer holidays. We have provided some updates that have been published throughout the summer and have included links for your information.

**NHS Standards of Cleanliness**

Update: NHSE&I have designed primary care focused commitment to cleanliness templates. Please review the links below & the compliance grid that will help with your implementation plans.

[The National standards of healthcare cleanliness 04/2021](https://www.bing.com/search?q=NHS+England+%C2%BB+National+Standards+of+Healthcare+Cleanliness+2021&src=IE-SearchBox&FORM=IESR3A)

[NHS England » National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021: Supporting documents](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-standards-of-healthcare-cleanliness-2021-supporting-documents/)

[NHS England » Our commitment to cleanliness](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/our-commitment-to-cleanliness/)

**FFP3 Respirator CAS Alert**

[NHS England » Infection risk when using FFP3 respirators with valves or Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) during surgical and invasive procedures](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/08/infection-risk-when-using-ffp3-respirators-with-valves-or-powered-air-purifying-respirators-paprs-during-surgical-and-invasive-procedures/)

 [NatPSA-vented-masks-hoods-FINAL.pdf (england.nhs.uk)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NatPSA-vented-masks-hoods-FINAL.pdf)

***Clostridioides difficile* infection: antimicrobial prescribing updated 23/07/2021**

[New C. DIFF prescribing Guidelines](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clostridium-difficile-infection-guidance-on-management-and-treatment)

**UTI Antibiotic Treatment**

The CCG Medicine Management Team has seen a recent increase in dipsticks by some practices. UTI diagnosis in patients aged over 65years should be based on clinical signs and symptoms and not urinalysis. It is recommended to use the below PHE flow chart - Diagnosis of urinary tract infections: quick reference tool for primary care

[Flowchart for men and women over 65 years with suspected UTI (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/755889/PHE_UTI_flowchart_-_over_65.pdf)

**Afghan relocation and resettlement schemes Advice for primary care - communicable disease screening and vaccination considerations**

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1016001/ARAP_Information_for_GPs_8-Aug.pdf>

**CQC**

Just for your information we have noted that during inspections CQC will focus on these specific key lines of enquiry.

 Safe: S1 - Monitoring questions for GP practices (08/07/21)

**Infection control**

* What changes have you made to infection control arrangements to protect staff and patients using the service?
* How do you ensure staff have the appropriate time for donning/doffing and cleaning between seeing patients? (not relevant to online services)
* When was your last audit of IPC/PPE/the environment and facilities? What did it tell you and what actions have you taken?

**Future Dates LMC/ CCG IPC Lead Nurse meetings:**

* **12/10/2021**
* **16/11/2021**
* **14/12/2021**

**Infection Control for All**

* **08/12/2021**

**Invasive group A streptococcal (iGAS) outbreaks: home healthcare**

There has been an increase iGAS infection with a 111% increase in reported Group A streptococcal bacteraemia between 2014 and 2018. PHE has undertaken a review of these outbreaks to understand their characteristics and document the challenges faced in managing the outbreaks.

Primary Care Providers undertaking patient home visits, are recommended to:

* have robust infection control policies in place including policies for decontamination of all items that are taken into a patient’s home.
* keep accurate records documenting all HCW-patient interactions, including the presence of students during visits. These records should be easily accessible and facilitate mass extraction of data to aid outbreak investigation.
* promptly supply information regarding HCW-patient interactions when requested as part of an outbreak investigation.
* have occupational health services in place that are able to fully support outbreak investigations through screening, prescribing and provision of information, advice and psychological support.

For further information please see the link below -

Invasive group A streptococcal outbreaks: home healthcare - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

**Virtual Clinics**

There are now virtual clinics that are available every 2nd Wednesday of the month where you can make an appointment to have 1:1 time to discuss any IP&C related queries with the IPC Nurses. [Click here for poster](https://nhs.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c94984b12662e72fcc56397e7&id=603b0b06d9&e=3e5a447e93)

Please book by contacting the IPC team email on: somccg.infectionpreventionandcontrolteam@nhs.net