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**Infection Prevention and Control**

**Annual Statement 2024**

*The following is for the period of January 2024 to December 2024 inclusive*.

**OUTBREAKS OF INFECTION**

There have been no confirmed outbreaks of infections within the hospice in the last 12 months. There have been isolated cases of staff members with undiagnosed vomiting or diarrhoea, however they have remained off sick and as per policy have isolated from work for 48 hours after their symptoms have subsided.

There have also been children and young people with isolated episodes of vomiting or loose stools. On these occasions the children and young people were isolated in their rooms, until parents collected them to take them home, as theses were respite stays.

In August 2024 a child presented with chicken pox during their stay. The child was isolated in their room, until their parents collected them. Parents of other children present during the stay were informed.

**AUDITS**

Monthly hand hygiene audits were undertaken. After each audit, action was taken to highlight the importance of hand hygiene and individuals who weren’t following procedure were spoken to individually.

Quarterly audits included, uniform audits, mattress audits and short IPC audits of the environment. Compliance with uniform policy, in relation to IPC was generally good. There were minor issues such as reminding staff to carry alcohol gel and also not keep their mobile phones on their person. This was raised at the times of the audit.

Mattress audits highlighted where mattresses needed to be replaced, this was also done in good time.

Short IPC audits of the environment, included bathrooms, bedrooms and milk kitchen highlighted that cleaning by the care team in the area was generally good. Some reminders were sent to staff to sign when they had cleaned an area.

In addition to the internal audits, in May 2024 an external audit was carried out by IPC team from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals.

The feedback was good, stating that overall the environment was clean with minimal concerns relating to IPC.

There were actions raised from the audit, including general maintenance of walls and ceilings, which had cracks, this was actioned by the estates team.

The pool area was also of concern, with cracks to doors in the shower area and residue on the pool cover, both items were replaced.

The housekeeper’s cupboard also requires some improvement to the storage, including new shelving, repairs to walls and removing items stored on the floor.

Items were being stored under sinks in the treatment rooms – this was rectified immediately.

It was identified that not all staff were bare below the elbow, however these were non clinical staff, and therefore this is not an expectation of them.

Although overall the audit was good, it was recognised that the format was very much hospital ward focussed and did not take into account the differences between a hospital and children’s hospice environment.

**RISK ASSESSMENTS**

No additional IPC risk assessments were completed this year

**TRAINING**

62 Care Team staff completed IPC ELearning training (which is all care team staff with the exception of those on maternity leave)

56 staff have attended face to face training within their annul updates.

The hospice IPC lead attended an IPC update training day to ensure their knowledge is kept updated.

**POLICY REVIEW**

The Uniform Guidelines within the IPC policy were updated in July 2024 as a separate Uniform Policy using the most up to date legislation and guidance.

**ACTIONS TAKEN**

Actions were taken from the outcomes of all audits.

It was also identified that the facilities team had replaced hand soap to a refillable soap, which is not IPC compliant.

Actions were undertaken to source alternative cartridge soap and hand gel.

**COMMUNICATION**

There is a section within all monthly Care Team meetings where IPC issues and updates can be raised.

All audit results and actions are shared with members of the Clinical Operational Governance meeting.

Staff also receive communication in person and via email.

Completed by Rosie Thomas – Head of Integrated Care May 2025