

GARDEN CITY SURGERY

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Introduction

This document sets out the surgery policy on infection control and should be used with reference to the principles outlined in the Infection Control (Biological Substances) Protocol and the Infection Control Inspection Checklist.

Policy Statement

This practice is committed to the control of infection within the building and in relation to the clinical procedures carried out within it. The practice will maintain the premises, equipment, drugs and procedures to the standards detailed within the Infection Control Inspection Checklist [*] and will provide facilities and the financial resources to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to reduce or remove all infection risk.

Wherever possible or practicable, the practice will seek to use washable or disposable materials for items such as soft furnishings and consumables, e.g. seating materials, wall coverings including paint, bedding, couch rolls, modesty sheets, bed curtains, floor coverings, towels etc., and ensure that these are laundered, cleaned or changed frequently to minimise risk of infection.

The practice will use the Infection Control Checklist as the basis for managing infection control and ensure that training is given to the staff member responsible for the Annual Audit so that they have the necessary degree of competence to carry it out.

Responsibility for the Management of Infection Risk

The responsibility for controlling infection and cross-contamination ultimately rests with all staff however specific tasks are allocated as follows:

- The clinician with overall responsibility for Infection Control is Ivy Patelino

The staff member responsible for training and the annual audit of Infection Control is Spart Hamdard

- The lead cleaner responsible for Infection Control is Wendy

Infection Control Lead will be responsible for the maintenance of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the provision of personal cleaning supplies within clinical areas

Infection Control Lead will be responsible for the maintenance of the provision of personal cleaning supplies within non-clinical areas

Infection Control Lead will be responsible for the maintenance of sterile equipment and supplies, and for ensuring that all items remain “in date”

The following general precautions will apply:

- A daily, weekly, monthly and six-monthly cleaning specification will apply and will be followed by the cleaning staff.
- Infection Control training will take place for all staff on an annual basis and will include training on hand decontamination, handwashing procedures, sterilisation procedures, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the safe use and disposal of sharps. See also: Handwashing Techniques posters displayed at each sink in the building.
- Infection Control Training will take place for all new recruits within two weeks of start. This is part of the Bluestream Academy profile for all members of staff.
- Handwashing posters will be displayed at each designated hand basin and also in public toilets and washing facilities (eg Baby-changing room etc).
- The practice will ensure that all staff have access to sufficient and appropriate supplies of materials for hand decontamination, PPE and sharps containers.
- A random and unannounced Infection Control Inspection by the above named staff, using the Checklist , will take place on at least a quarterly basis and the findings will be reported to the partners' meeting for (any) remedial action and minuted.
- The practice will also seek to educate patients and carers regarding effective hand decontamination and handwashing techniques opportunistically. Hand gel or foam will be made available for patients and visitors throughout the practice at strategic locations.
- Staff involved in clinical tasks will always be `bare below the elbow`. NICE guidance advises that bare below the elbow should mean: not wearing false nails or nail polish; not wearing a wrist-watch or stoned rings; wearing short-sleeved garments or being able to roll or push up sleeves. The practice-provided uniform for clinical staff will always be short-sleeved.

Resources

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidelines:

Healthcare-Associated infections - Prevention and control in Primary and Community Care

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg139/chapter/1-Guidance

Guidance on Infection Control July 2015 (Dept of Health)

Legionella guidance (HSE) - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires>

Care Quality Commission - <http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/guidance-providers> and

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/nigels-surgery-full-list-tips-mythbusters-latest-update>

Health Building Note 11-01: Facilities for primary and community care services 2013 (DoH)

Essential practice for infection prevention and control - Guidance for nursing staff, Royal College of Nursing 2012

<https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/>

Review date February 2024