



National Monitoring Framework for Safe and Clean Care Auditing

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Background

In 2015, the Chief Nursing Officer asked Health Protection Scotland (HPS) to consider the need for a national monitoring system for equipment decontamination following a series of Healthcare Environment Inspectorate inspections where suboptimal IPC practice was highlighted. It was requested the system affords Senior Charge Nurses (SCNs) the relevant autonomy and accountability for prevention of infection audit within their area of responsibility.

Methodology

HPS established a short life working group with representation from every NHS Board in Scotland with the purpose of co-producing a framework and methodology for Prevention of Infection audit. HPS also undertook a review of the current prevention of infection audit tools used throughout Scotland.

Aims/Objectives

Using a collaborative approach, an evidence-based, system-wide audit methodology and framework was produced which allows Teams to have a strategic overview of prevention and control of infection practice within their organisation. This framework incorporates a QI approach ensuring reliable implementation of change.

Results

The audit review demonstrated there is a consistent approach across NHSScotland. However, variation in practice existed around scoring, weighting of scores, re-audit, the escalation process and the use of QI within the action planning process.

The monitoring framework was widely tested and consulted prior to publication and includes all prevention of infection auditing which is not undertaken by IPC experts such as:

- Standard Infection Control and Transmission-Based Precautions
- HEI Mock type inspections
- Peer IPC audit
- Leadership/management walk rounds

The framework and associated tools have been published on the resource page of the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM).

References

Health Protection Scotland. A National Monitoring Framework to Support Safe and Clean Care Audit Programmes. 2018. Available from: <http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/resources/audit-tools/>

HPS would like to acknowledge the support and hard work of the short life working group who collaborated to produce this framework.