



# DE~BUGGED

*Focusing on the provision of Clean, Safe Care...*

Infection Prevention & Control Newsletter for NHS Worcestershire & Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust

## EXCITING TIMES—INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LINK STAFF

Worcestershire Health and Care 




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If you require further information about any item in this newsletter please contact the Infection Prevention & Control Nurses on 01386 502552

**SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands - WHO's global annual call to action for health workers 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The most important part of being a member of link staff representing Infection Prevention and Control in your setting is that you have an interest in this specialty. As a team of nurses we will always provide support and guidance to link staff and recognise the huge benefit they bring to their clinical area, the Infection Prevention and Control Team and wider Trust. We have recently undertaken a review of the role of link staff and at our recent link meeting taken steps to look at how the role can be further developed and supported within the Trust. The questionnaire completed by link staff last year highlighted many examples of excellent practice at ward and department levels and we are keen to promote many of the examples given across the Trust to further enhance the prevention and control of infection. As a team we are in the process of thinking about:

-  Continuing support and education is fundamental to the role.
-  Facilitation of a system to cascade information to ensure IPC is consistently on the team meeting/handover sheet therefore direct route for dissemination of information.
-  Development of a resource pack including ideas to promote IPC within clinical area and to include competency framework.

If you interested in joining our network of link staff please contact us to discuss further, wherever possible this is not a role for just one person so if there is already someone in your area it does not mean that there is not an opportunity for you or if you are a member of link staff already and have ideas as to how the role can be enhanced or infection prevention and control further promoted please do contact us to discuss further.



### NICE BULLETIN

NICE have started to issue evidence summary: medicines and prescribing briefing advice. The first, (ESMPB1) published in March 2015 focuses on the minimisation of Clostridium difficile. The review details how the use of broad spectrum antibiotics is associated with an increased incidence of Clostridium difficile infection. This briefing reviews the evidence assessing the risk of C.difficile infection associated with individual broad spectrum antibiotics based on the highest quality published evidence and provides evidence to support the practices which are promoted in Worcestershire.



### HELP US GO VIRAL CONFERENCE & PRODUCT EXHIBITION

This year the Infection Prevention and Control Conference and Product Exhibition for Qualified Clinical Staff is planned for 13 May at the Charles Hastings Education Centre. The day is entitled "Help Us GO VIRAL" and will look at how we can further enhance and influence clinical practices of our own and others to enhance infection prevention and control and stop the spread of infection. Topics discussed on the day will take us on a journey of infection control and include initiative such as the role of an Infection Preventionist and celebrate our successes over the last year. In addition, sessions will be presented on Listeria and Blood Borne Viruses and afternoon sessions will offer delegates the opportunity to choose the infections that interest them the most and participate in group sessions to learn more about these viruses, bacteria or ectoparasites and how patients can be treated and cared for when known to be infected or colonised with these agents. A number of product exhibitors will also be in attendance. If you require more information or would like to book a place, please contact Karen Cookes on 01386 502597.



Hand hygiene is a simple thing and it's the best way to prevent infection and illness wherever you are. In healthcare settings, hand hygiene can prevent infections from spreading from patient to patient and from patient to healthcare worker and vice-versa. On May 5, **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands** is celebrated by the World Health Organization (WHO), CDC and other partners to encourage healthcare providers to promote and practice good hand hygiene measures to reduce the risk of infection among patients. Visit [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) for more information.

### QUESTION TIME

#### What is antibiotic resistance?

Antibiotics are drugs used to treat infections caused by bacteria. Sometimes bacteria develop the ability to survive antibiotic treatment, this is called antibiotic resistance.

When a strain of bacteria become resistant to an antibiotic it means this antibiotic will no longer be effective for treating the infections they cause.





## NOROVIRUS

Clusters of cases of viral gastroenteritis continue to be identified in community and healthcare settings. Please keep your area safe and discourage visitors who are or have been either unwell with diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the last 48 hours or have been caring for someone in the last 48 hours who has been symptomatic. It is imperative that **staff are aware of the need to remain vigilant when accepting admissions/transfers to ensure that they have asked questions relating to prevalence of symptoms within a ward/area and in the individual being transferred including whether they have previously been positive.** Please ask these questions for all transfers or admissions and do not rely on others to provide the information. **Contact one of the Infection Prevention and Control Nurses on 01386 502552 for advice.**



## IN THE NEWS...

**Avian influenza risk assessment 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015** Public Health England has published a [Risk assessment of avian influenza A\(H5N1\) – first update](#). This update reports on the risk to UK residents travelling to Egypt and other affected areas. It includes: background information; risk assessment; advice for travellers; and advice for clinicians and health professionals. The risk to UK residents travelling to Egypt and other affected areas is very low and the guidance also provides information which sets out to allay concerns.

**Hepatitis C awareness 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015** A new [film to raise awareness and increase knowledge of hepatitis C](#) among GPs and other primary care practitioners has been launched by the Royal College of GPs, the Hepatitis C Trust and HCV Action. The open-access film aims to increase healthcare professionals' knowledge about the virus, build their confidence in diagnosing and supporting patients and inform them of the new and highly effective treatments available in primary care. The film [Detecting and Managing Hepatitis C in Primary Care](#) is available to view for free on the HCV Action website.

**Pertussis: Green Book update 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015** Public Health England has substantially rewritten chapter 24 in the Green Book providing information on [pertussis](#) (whooping cough). The updated information brings it into line with current information, policies and procedures.

**MenB to be added to national childhood immunisation programme** A vaccine against meningitis B will be available to all babies in the UK after the government agreed a deal with drug manufacturers. The vaccine, which prevents meningitis caused by meningococcal group B (MenB) bacteria, will be added to the national childhood immunisation programme and is expected to be rolled out from the autumn.

## NEWS NEWS NMC—THE NEW CODE NEWS NEWS

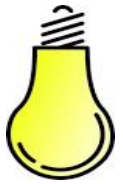
NMC (2015) The Code-Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives contains the professional standards that registered nurses and midwives must uphold. UK nurses and midwives must act in line with the Code, whether they are providing direct care to individuals, groups or communities or bringing their professional knowledge to bear on nursing and midwifery practice in other roles, such as leadership, education or research. While you can interpret the values and principles set out in the Code in a range of different practice settings, they are not negotiable or discretionary. Standard states individuals must 'be aware of, and reduce as far as possible, any potential for harm associated with their practice' and included in the subheadings below this for the first time in 19.3 minimising the risk of infection is included strengthening what all clinicians know are essential practices to use consistently. '19.3 keep to and promote recommended practice in relation to controlling and preventing infection'.

**ALWAYS follow the "5 NICHE moments to make a difference and prevent antibiotic resistance**

## VISIT

[www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk](http://www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk)  
click on Infection Prevention and Control for latest information

## ASKED TO DO AN MRSA SCREEN?



If you are requested to complete an MRSA screen on a patient, this may involve different swabs for hospital or community patients or whether patients are known positive in the past. Regardless of this if you are asked for a full screen this should include as a minimum:

- 👉 **Nose swab** (anterior nares of both nostrils (one swab both nostrils moistened first).
- 👉 **Groin swab** (both groins a single swab and again moistened first).
- 👉 A standard charcoal swab should be used to swab **each skin lesion or wound**.
- 👉 A **sputum sample** if the patient is productive.
- 👉 A **catheter specimen** of urine if a urinary catheter is insitu.
- 👉 A **swab from any other invasive device sites** must also be included.

Remember to treat positive results in accordance with primary care prescribing guidance and if you know someone has previously been positive always consider this prior to the use of any antimicrobial agents.

To be certain your practices are right please reflect on the above point, if there is any aspect of MRSA screening or treatment you wish to discuss further please contact one of the Infection Prevention and Control Nurses on 01386 502552.

## PRESCRIBING ANTIBIOTICS? Think NICHE

NICHE is an electronic poster campaign with its acronym invited prescribers to consider the following:

- Need** (for antibiotic)
- Investigation** (cultures for prescribing)
- Choice** (spectrum of antibiotic)
- How Long** (is your prescription for)
- Evaluate** (your patient and prescription)



Posters are available in pop art, info graphic and diagrammatic formats, with the info graphic version available for both hospital and community settings.

