



## DE~BUGGED

Infection Control Newsletter for Worcestershire Primary Care Trusts and Mental Health Partnership Trust

### WSSA Infection Control Service



Welcome to the first issue of the new infection control newsletter for staff working within Worcestershire's Primary Care Trusts and Mental Health Partnership Trust.

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information on current infection control issues and initiatives both at a local and national level. It will also be used to highlight new products that are available which can help to minimise the potential for cross infection occurring.

The aim of the Infection Control Service is to promote as safe as possible an environment for staff, patients and visitors so

that the risks of cross infection or contamination are kept to a minimum. This is achieved by:-

- ✎ Auditing of clinical areas and specialities along with food preparation areas.
- ✎ Information, guidance and advice, this might be over the phone or through the yellow infection control policies and procedure binder.
- ✎ Education on infections and safe working practices.
- ✎ Surveillance and Monitoring of infections.
- ✎ Outbreak management.

The Infection Control Team comprises Carole

Clive, Karen Hall and Cassie Gregory who are Infection Control Nurses and Dr Jim Stone and Dr Jane Stockley who are Infection Control Doctors.

During working hours an Infection Control Nurse is usually available on 01386 502552 or 07798 608171. If you are unable to contact the Infection Control Nurses or require out of hours advice you can contact switchboard at the Acute Trust and ask for the on call medical microbiologist to be contacted.



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

#### Product Review...

✎ No more buckets of soap and water and soggy paper towels. **DEB multi surface wipes** are now available from NHS supplies!! These quick drying multi-purpose wipes can be used to routinely clean beds, mattresses, work tops, lockers and chairs. NHS cat code VJT004 .

### The challenge of Viral Gastroenteritis...

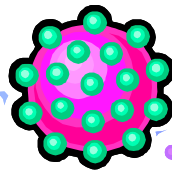
Between September 2002 and March 2003 Worcestershire experienced a series of outbreaks of gastroenteritis. This mirrors the National Picture of an increase of 25% in acute settings alone. Interestingly enough the community has also seen an increase in the level of viral gastroenteritis. The causative organism has been the small round structured

virus (SRSV) or Norwalk like virus (NLV). All staff should remain vigilant to the possibility of viral gastroenteritis in both patients/clients and themselves. Early recognition and notification to the Infection Control Nurses is important.

For further information refer to the Infection

Control Policies and procedures binder.

An article relating to the management of outbreaks was distributed to all in-patient areas in December 2002 and further copies are available from Sam Duckett on 01905 681531.



#### Study Day...

Infection Control New Challenges... and Product Exhibition

On 15 July 2003 At Charles Hasting Centre, WRH

For clinical staff working in Primary Care or Mental Health settings. Please contact Carole Clive for more information on 01386 502552.



## Handy Hand Hygiene Information



Improving Hand Hygiene has become a local, national and international concern. The National Patient Safety

Agency (NPSA) are carrying out a project looking at Hand Hygiene across 6 acute Trusts. The aim of this is to;

- ✎ Improve staff and patient knowledge of hand hygiene
- ✎ Promote the availability of alcohol gel for use by all clinical staff.

## Sharps Injury?

The Blood Borne Contamination Incident Policy in the Yellow Infection Control Policies and Procedures Binder or individually issued policy in General Practice, details the advice to follow if you should sustain a sharps injury, needlestick or bite wound. There is also a poster that accompanies this policy which shows a flow chart of actions to take in **Red Orange** or **Green**.

If you should sustain a sharps injury, immediately wash the wound thoroughly and encourage it to bleed. Inform your manager of the incident

✎ Promote hand hygiene to patients/clients via posters or offering the opportunity for hand hygiene after toileting or prior to eating. This can be done simply by using skin cleansing wipes.

Locally we are planning a trial of various alcohol gel products and their compatibility in community, clinic and in-patient settings. If as a group you are interested in being part of the trial please contact the Infection Control Nurses on 01386 502552.



so that they can arrange the appropriate follow up as detailed in the policy regarding the source patient or type of incident. Complete an incident report form and then contact or go to Occupational Health or the nearest A&E or Minor Injuries Unit. These actions should be carried out as soon as possible after the injury. Please contact the Infection Control Nurses on 01386 502552 if you wish to discuss any aspect of the policy.

## General Practice

The Infection Control Service is expanding to encompass General Practices across Worcestershire, this is on a phased programme and will be done one PCT at a time. It is hoped that a number of audits can be carried out in General Practice. The Yellow Policies and Procedures Binder currently used by directly managed PCT services will be modified to include General Practice.

## Decontamination

The localised decontamination of re-usable medical devices is being reviewed by NHS Estates on a national basis. Information is available on their web site <http://www.nhsestates.gov.uk>.

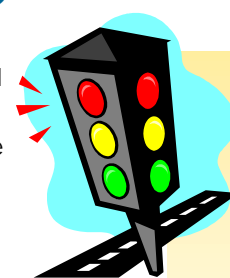
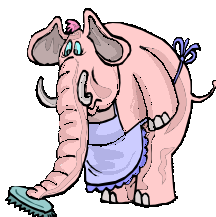
## Sharps Bin Trial

A number of District Nursing Teams recently took part in a trial for Daniels Healthcare of their new Sharpsbin 0.6. This is designed specifically for use in the community. All responses have now been sent to Daniels. The results were mixed with the majority of staff liking the shape of the bin but finding it difficult to use due to the non return flaps. Daniels would like to thank the staff who contributed to the trial.

## Patient Environment Action Teams—PEAT?

Have you ever thought about how people see the area that you work in when they visit or come in for treatment. Patients expect to receive care and treatment in clutter free, clean, tidy and comfortable surroundings. The National Standards of Cleanliness for the NHS have been designed with this in mind. All NHS Trusts have to audit cleanliness against these standards. A non acute Patient Environment Action Group (PEAG) has

been meeting which has Infection Control and Facilities representatives in addition to PCT and Mental Health Trust representation. The PEAG discuss audit results and ways in which standards of cleanliness can be improved across the county. PEAT visits to the larger Mental Health inpatient units are ongoing. These small teams are appointed by NHS Estates and they evaluate levels of cleanliness and score units red, amber or green. No date has been set yet for PCT/Community Hospital PEAT visits.



**STOP!  
THINK!  
WASH  
YOUR  
HANDS!!**