



# DE~BUGGED

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

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



## BEST PRACTICE FOR HAND WASHING

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

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You may remember that in February of this year it was reported that pseudomonas species had been detected in a number of taps in neonatal units in Northern Ireland. The Department of Health has since published some guidance on best practice to minimise contamination risks associated with all hand wash sinks. Within the clinical areas you work in consider whether practices are in accordance with the guidance and consider how you can promote compliance at water outlets. Key points detailed below provide information on how hand wash sinks should be managed and appropriate practices to minimise potential for cross contamination:

- ✎ Only use the clinical wash hand basin for hand washing
- ✎ Clinical wash hand basins should dispense water at an appropriate temperature for hand washing
- ✎ Clinical wash hand basins should not have plugs. Sinks in patient en-suite areas however do require plugs as they are patient wash facilities
- ✎ Do not dispose of body fluids at the hand wash basin – use a dirty utility area or sink (this includes urine specimens)
- ✎ Do not wash any patient or medical equipment in a wash hand basin
- ✎ Do not use hand wash basins for storing used equipment awaiting decontamination
- ✎ Ensure that taps are run or used at regular intervals
- ✎ Wherever possible do not locate alcohol gel dispensers at hand wash facilities – locate at the point of care or use individual hand-rub dispensers. Gel is not required at the sink as soap and water should be used for hand washing at a sink.
- ✎ Use pre-filled single-use bottles for alcohol based hand rubs, soaps or cleaning solutions. Do not top-up soap, alcohol or other products.
- ✎ Ensure that sinks are cleaned with appropriate products and left visibly clean at all times.



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

### ALWAYS CONSIDER IF ANTIBIOTICS ARE NECESSARY

Prescribing antibiotics for viral or mild self limiting infections such as coughs and colds is unlikely to improve the course of the illness, it can put patients at risk of side effects.

**Clean Hands—Clean Conscience** Hand Hygiene is the single most important way to prevent infection from spreading to others. Always practice in accordance with the Five Moments of Hand Hygiene and ensure when undertaking Hand Hygiene that you are Bare Below the Elbows.

If you identify any issues of concern, if required you can contact the Infection Prevention and Control Nurses on 01386 502552.

## GOING FOR GOLD

The Infection Prevention and Control Conference for Qualified Staff is planned for 10 May 2012 at Charles Hastings Education

Centre. The theme for this year is based on the Olympics and how to “Go for Gold” in the prevention and control of infection. Guest speakers will be discussing the role of pre and probiotics, diagnosis and treatment of infection and infection precautions associated with the Olympic Games. In addition to this an overview of healthcare associated infections will be presented and the afternoon will then focus on a ‘triathlon event’ of Think, Plan and Do in relation to infection prevention and control before the closing ceremony of questions and answers. A number of companies will also be available to discuss their products, representatives are expected from Go-Jo hand hygiene products, Danone Probiotic drinks and Daniels sharps bins in addition to providers for various wound care products, catheters, gloves and wipes used in healthcare who will also be attending the day. A similar day for healthcare assistants is also planned for 20 September 2012. Please contact Gail Preece on 01386 502597 for details of the above or to book a place.



## CDI Important Information

In future, please show this card to any Doctor, Pharmacist, Dentist or other healthcare provider  
• contact your GP without delay if symptoms persist or reoccur



Reducing healthcare associated infection remains a high priority within the NHS. It is well known that *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea most commonly follows antibiotic use and although often associated with hospital admission can also follow antibiotic therapy in the community. Other risk factors for infection include prescription of proton pump inhibitors, laxatives and drugs which reduce immunity. In the January newsletter there were a number of key points that clinical staff should be aware of regarding the management of *Clostridium difficile*. Since then a national initiative has been launched to promote the adoption of a CDI PASSPORT. This approach was initially piloted in the NHS in the North West and proved highly successful and is therefore now being introduced across the West Midlands.

The CDI passport can be issued to patients on the diagnosis of *Clostridium difficile* infection in hospital or by their GP. The holder can then show the card to healthcare staff when they are accessing health services e.g. GP, dentist, pharmacy, hospital etc. Distribution to GP's will occur when a positive result is notified to the infection prevention and control team by the microbiology laboratory. For patients identified as positive in hospital settings, the passport will be given to them during their hospital stay.

If you or your colleagues are presented with the card by a patient, then you should use your professional discretion about the appropriate action to take. This could include reconsidering the need for a medication you wished to prescribe, informing other healthcare professionals of relevant medical history or contacting the prescriber to ensure they are aware of the patient's status, particularly if they are prescribed broad spectrum antibiotics or proton pump inhibitors.

Posters promoting the scheme will be distributed to healthcare providers over the next month along with supporting information. If you wish to discuss further please contact Carole Clive on 01386 502552.



TB is an infection caused by bacteria, it usually affects the lungs, but can affect other parts of the body. It is transmitted when someone who has the infection coughs or sneezes, but requires close prolonged contact to spread from person to person. Health professionals and the general public should be aware of the following key, simple facts about TB:

- ✎ TB can be fatal if not treated, it is usually curable with a six-month course of antibiotics which must be completed
- ✎ Not completing the full course can encourage drug resistance
- ✎ TB disease develops slowly in the body over a period of several months
- ✎ Symptoms are: fever/night sweats, persistent cough, weight loss, blood in sputum (phlegm or spit) at any time, a lack of appetite, fatigue and a general sense of feeling unwell
- ✎ The infection requires prolonged and close contact in order to spread from person to person
- ✎ Under half of cases in the UK have the infectious form of the disease
- ✎ TB treatment is free for the patient in the UK.



## NICE GUIDANCE

The NICE clinical guidelines for Infection

Prevention and Control of healthcare associated infections in primary and community care were updated in March 2012. They replace NICE clinical guideline 2

(published June 2003) and offer evidence-based advice on the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections in primary and community care. New and updated recommendations address areas in which clinical practice for preventing healthcare associated infections in primary and community care has changed, where the risk of healthcare associated infections is greatest, and where the evidence has changed. They are an excellent resource to refer to and provide the reader with information on standard practices, as well as the ongoing management of invasive devices, in a factual manner which sets out to support clinical practice.



## VISIT [www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk](http://www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk)

click on Infection Prevention and Control and you will see where we are updating our website and you can access a variety of new resources on line. Content includes posters, bin labels and awareness raising materials that you can print off; links to other websites which contain infection prevention and control information; access to training resources and workbooks on infection prevention and control in addition to information on forthcoming study days. Mini audit tools for a variety of areas can be downloaded and guidance including cleaning schedules and policies and procedures can be viewed. We are slowly going to increase the amount of information and resources available on this website so try and view on a regular basis to ensure you have access to all the latest information, if there is other information you would like to see on the site please contact Gail Preece on 01386 502597.