Information for Patients, Relatives and Carers on
The Prevention and Control of Infection

Minimising the risk of infection for patients, visitors and staff is a top priority for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC). This leaflet tells you what we are doing about it, and how you can help.

What can you do?
Do not visit someone in a healthcare setting if you have a cold or have been feeling unwell (especially if it’s diarrhoea), until you are better.

When visiting, be careful what you do – don’t sit on the bed and keep the number of visitors to a minimum at any one time.

As a visitor, the most important thing you can do is make sure your hands are clean before going into the ward. Use the alcohol hand gel provided at the ward door or bedside.

Never touch dressings, drips or other equipment around the bed.

If you have any concerns, never be afraid to raise them with staff.

Guide dogs can accompany visitors into our clinical areas but no other animals will be permitted unless permission is given by the local Infection Prevention and Control Team.

Thank you for your help.

Where can I get more information?

Health Protection Scotland
www.hps.scot.nhs.uk

The Health Protection Agency
www.hpa.org.uk

The Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA
www.cdc.gov

You can get further advice by contacting the local Infection Prevention and Control Team. Leaflets are available in other languages and in large print version from the following website:
www.nhsggc.org.uk/infectioncontrol

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
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What’s the problem?
An infection picked up by a patient while receiving healthcare is called a Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI).
The vast majority of patients will never pick up an HAI but it is impossible to totally eliminate the risk.
If someone is already suffering from a serious condition (for example, diabetes, kidney failure or another long-term illness), or their immune system is not working properly for any reason, they will tend to be more at risk to possible infection.
No-one can prevent all HAI’s but there are many ways in which we can reduce the risk of infection.

What are NHSGGC doing to reduce the risk of you or your relative developing an infection?

Infection Prevention and Control Teams
Every healthcare facility has an Infection Prevention and Control Team. Their job is to make sure that systems are in place and standards are met to reduce the risk of HAI. They do this by:
- sharing good examples of practice with staff
- inspecting wards and departments for cleanliness
- educating staff in procedures, systems and standards
- monitoring the number of cases of infection
- developing programmes to reflect current Government Policies and Priorities.
You can speak to a member of the local Infection Prevention and Control Team if you have any concerns about HAI.
NHSGGC Board Infection Prevention and Control Committee manage the work of the local Infection Prevention and Control Teams.

All staff
All staff are committed to the prevention and control of HAI. They work closely with the local Infection Prevention and Control Teams to make sure all available resources are used effectively to minimise the risk of infection.

Informing new staff
New staff undergo an induction programme that emphasises all of the key elements that are important in the prevention and control of infection, for example hand hygiene.

Hand hygiene
We encourage visitors and staff to clean their hands on entering and leaving a ward. Staff must carry out hand hygiene procedures at five key moments:
- Before touching a patient
- Before any procedures
- If they touch blood or body fluids
- When they leave a patient
- After contact with a patient’s surroundings

NHSGGC regularly carries out hand hygiene audits.

Cleaning Services
Cleaning Services Managers, Infection Prevention and Control Teams and members of the public routinely review our cleaning standards.
NHSGGC has implemented the National Cleaning Services Monitoring Framework.

Cleanliness Champions
A high percentage of staff have undertaken a training programme to become Cleanliness Champions.
This training programme provides them with knowledge of infection prevention and control practices. Local Infection Prevention and Control Teams support staff who undertake this programme.

Education
We have a range of staff education programmes, including mandatory courses. These help staff develop infection prevention and control skills.
We also have online training that is available to all staff in NHSGGC.

Infection Prevention and Control Policies
NHSGGC has an on-line manual which sets out the latest, proven best practice in infection prevention and control. It is available to all healthcare staff.