

Care Home IPC Resource Toolkit

Version 4.0
27 June 2025

Version history

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Approvals

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| V1.0 | 5 June 2024 | Abigail Mullings CIPC Programme Clinical Lead |
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Introduction

The Care Home Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Resource Toolkit (known herein as ‘the toolkit’) has been produced by the Care Home IPC (CH IPC) team in ARHAI Scotland. The toolkit is a collection of care home related IPC guidance, resources and tools which can support local IPC adoption and implementation. The toolkit should be used in conjunction with the [Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(CH IPCM\)](#) and supporting resources. It is the Scottish Government expectation that the CH IPCM is adopted and implemented in all care homes in Scotland.

The toolkit contains a collection of key IPC related guidance, resources, and tools from ARHAI Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland (NES), Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) and other national and international organisations, with a focus on those most relevant to care home settings. It has been structured specifically to support care home staff easily identify key IPC materials. The content is not exhaustive and ARHAI Scotland are not responsible for any published tools and resources by external organisations within the toolkit.

1.0 Overview

The toolkit presents a variety of care home IPC resources and tools available nationally and internationally in a tabular form. The content is listed within the following categories:

- guidance materials
- communication and display
- implementation
- measurement
- training and education
- strategies

A short description of each resource and tools is included to assist individuals with decision making regarding suitability. The toolkit content will be reviewed regularly, and online access is advised to ensure the most up-to-date information is accessed at care home level.

2.0 Who is the toolkit for?

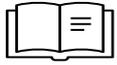
This toolkit is applicable for use in care homes in Scotland and can be used by care home staff, visitors, volunteers, and others responsible for IPC. Some resources and tools may be deemed more relevant for managers within care homes but overall, the materials have been selected to support the implementation and adoption of IPC practice to support safe care delivery.

3.0 How to use the toolkit

The toolkit has been structured to help individuals easily identify:

- the tool or resource name and year of issue
- organisation and author
- brief description
- hyperlinks to resources

Resource Tables



Guidance materials

Table 1: Guidance considered best practice for Scotland

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|------|----------------|---|
| Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual (CH IPCM) | | ARHAI Scotland | The CH IPCM is a practice guide for use in care homes. When used, it can help reduce the risk of infections and ensure the safety of residents, as well as staff and visitors in the care home environment. |
| A-Z of Pathogens NIPCM: National Infection Prevention and Control Manual | | ARHAI Scotland | This resource provides an A-Z list of infection types and information about period of communicability (infectious period) and what precautions are required for each. |
| HAI Compendium | 2025 | ARHAI Scotland | Collection of useful resources related to IPC. |
| Guidance for the public health management of acute respiratory infections (ARI) in community, social and residential care settings | 2024 | PHS | This guidance aims to provide health protection teams (HPT) with a clear, concise, and accessible overview of the public health approach to prevention and management of acute respiratory infections |

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|------|--------------|---|
| | | | (ARI) in community, social and residential care settings. |
| Guidance on prevention and control of Clostridioides difficile Infection (CDI) in community-based settings in Scotland | 2024 | PHS | <p>This guidance is for health protection professionals only and supports the community detection and management of Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI) in Scotland.</p> <p>Community-based settings covered by this guidance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • care provided to individuals at home or other -non secondary care settings. • care homes • rehabilitation services • hospices • prisons |
| Safe management of the care environment. Cleaning specification for care homes | 2021 | HFS | <p>Guidance on how to manage and deliver cleaning within Scottish care homes. This guidance should be used in conjunction with the CH IPCM.</p> |
| Management of Public Health Incidents | 2020 | PHS | <p>This document provides generic guidance for preparing for, and managing public health incidents in collaboration with partners, including local authorities.</p> |

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|------|---------------|---|
| Animals in care settings. Infection prevention and control guidelines | 2019 | HPS | This guideline provides information for health or social care settings when considering bringing animals into the care setting. |
| National Guidance for safe management of linen in NHSScotland Health and Care Environments | 2018 | HPS, HFS, NSS | Guidance on the safe management of linen at all stages of laundering and includes additional guidance for domestic style laundries. This guidance can be used in conjunction with the CH IPCM . |
| Medical Devices Regulations | 2024 | MHRA | Guidance on the regulations of medical devices and how to comply with the regulations as well as how to report non-compliances. |
| Accurate recording of deaths from healthcare associated infection and action | 2011 | SG | Guidance on the death certification system where a healthcare associated infection is indicated as the cause of death. |

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|------|---------------------------------|---|
| My Health, My Care, My Home - healthcare framework for adults living in care homes | 2022 | SG | A framework providing a series of recommendations that aims to transform healthcare for people living in care homes. |
| Antibiotics - Information Leaflet for staff in Care homes and Community Hospitals | 2021 | SAPG | Information leaflet for staff on antibiotic use in care homes. |
| Fluid-Resistant (Type) IIR Surgical Facemask | 2020 | ARHAI Scotland /NHS Lanarkshire | Poster guide on how to fit and wear fluid-resistant (type IIR) surgical face masks |
| Healthcare Associated infections. Information for the public. Easy Read Version | 2019 | HPS | Information leaflet for the public regarding healthcare associated infections (HAI) and what they can do to prevent them. |
| Keep antibiotics working poster | 2019 | SAPG/NES | Poster with 5 key messages for health and social care staff in Scotland on safe antimicrobial use. |



Implementation

Table 3: Implementation materials

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| Evidence and research for CH IPCM content | Multiple | ARHAI Scotland | Evidence and research landing page of the NIPCM. Contains various literature reviews that underpin national IPC guidance. |
| Care home IPC resource for respiratory illness | 2025 | ARHAI Scotland | This resource provides care home staff with key IPC information to support the management of suspected and confirmed cases of respiratory illness of an infectious nature amongst residents. This resource should be used alongside the CH IPCM . |
| Care Home IPC resource for gastro-intestinal illness | 2024 | ARHAI Scotland | This resource provides care home staff with key IPC information to support the management of suspected and confirmed residents with gastro-intestinal (GI) illness of an infectious nature. This resource should be used alongside the CH IPCM . |
| RCN Mouth Care during End-of-Life Care | 2023 | RCN/Care inspectorate hub | This resource can be used by the person receiving care, their relatives and those important to |

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|------|--------------|--|
| | | | them, to help and support good mouth care at the end of life. |
| Preventing Infection in Social Care Settings | | NES | IPC pocket guide for staff working and providing care in care homes and social care settings. |
| Decision aid for diagnosis and management of suspected UTI in people with indwelling catheters | 2021 | SAPG | Flowchart and guidance to support staff manage catheterised people with UTI. |
| Decision aid for diagnosis and management of suspected UTI in people aged 65 years and over | 2021 | SAPG | Flow chart and guidance to help staff with management of UTI in people aged 65 years and over. |
| Management of suspected bacterial lower urinary tract infection in adult women | 2020 | SIGN | This guideline will be of interest to healthcare professionals in primary and secondary care, officers in charge of residential and care homes, antibiotic policy makers, clinical effectiveness leads and carers. |
| CPE Toolkit for non-acute settings | 2017 | HPS | Guidance on the early detection, management and control of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae in Scottish |

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|----------|--------------|---|
| | | | non-acute and community settings. The toolkit includes guidance, and information leaflets for those with CPE, contacts of those with CPE, and staff caring for individuals with CPE. |
| Urinary Catheter care Passport | 2017 | HPS/SUTIN | Service user record of catheter insertion and care. |
| Preventing catheter associated urinary tract infections – Community Settings | 2014 | HPS | Best practice guide for preventing urinary tract infection in relation to insertion and maintenance of urinary catheters in line with the targeted literature review carried out by HPS which was updated in 2018. Can be used with the CAUTI bundle audit to monitor compliance. |
| Right Decision Service App – Antimicrobial Guidance | Multiple | SAPG | Digital application providing easy access to clinical guidance and supports decision making on antibiotic prescribing. Web version also available. |



IPC Measurement

Table 4: IPC Measurement Support Resources

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|------|--------------|--|
| Infection Prevention and Control Standards for health and social care settings | 2022 | HIS | IPC Standards for health and social care in Scotland. |
| Minimum requirements for infection prevention and control programmes | 2019 | WHO | The purpose of this document is to present and promote the minimum requirements for IPC programmes at the national and health care facility level, identified by expert consensus according to available evidence and in the context of the WHO core components. |
| National monitoring Framework | 2018 | HPS | The purpose of the framework is to provide a set of principles which will provide an organisational quality assurance of all Safe and Clean Care auditing and to establish a framework for audit which adds value to the process and supports a QI approach. |

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|------|--------------|--|
| National Infection Prevention and Control Manual SICPs audit tools | 2015 | HPS | This data collection tool has been designed to support SICPs implementation at a local level. It can be used by all staff disciplines in any care environment. |
| Bundle for preventing urinary tract infections in community settings audit tool | 2014 | HPS/HIS | Improvement bundle audit tool for preventing catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI). |



Training and education

Table 5: Training and education resources

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|---|------|--------------|---|
| Digital and Data Capability Framework | 2025 | NES | Outlines the digital skills, knowledge and behaviours everyone needs to do their job and deliver safe and good quality care and support. The framework applies to the entire health and social care workforce in Scotland including social care and care and support providers. |

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|----------|--------------|--|
| Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Zone | Multiple | NES | Various health and care resources for NHS healthcare staff. Hosted on TURAS, user login required. |
| My Learning | 2025 | SSSC | A smartphone-based app provided by SSSC to log learning activities. |
| Scottish Infection Prevention and Control Education Pathway (SIPCEP) | | NES | Consists of various IPC modules which align with the CH IPCM. The foundation layer focuses on SICPs and provides an IPC refresher. Hosted on TURAS, user login required. |
| Raising awareness of antimicrobial stewardship for nurses and midwives (video) | 2022 | NES | Video raising awareness for nurses on the use of antibiotics. |
| Catheter Care: RCN Guidance for Health Care Professionals | 2021 | RCN | Clinical competency guidance on catheter care. |
| Supporting older people to live active healthy lives | Multiple | NES | A learning programme for those working with older people to support active healthy lives. |
| WHO hand hygiene technical reference | 2009 | WHO | Hand hygiene resources, including posters and training materials. |

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|---|------|--------------|-------------|
| manual and training tools | | | |



IPC Strategies

Table 6: IPC Strategies

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|---|------|----------------------------|---|
| Further Update on Standards on Healthcare Associated Infections, (DL(2025)05) | 2025 | SG | Provides an update on the healthcare associated infection (HCAI) standards and antibiotic use indicators originally due to expire in 2022 which were extended to 2024. |
| Confronting antimicrobial resistance 2024 to 2029 | 2024 | HMG, WG, SG, DoHNI, DEARA. | This four-nations national action plan (NAP), builds on the achievements and lessons of the 2019-2024 action plan. |
| Health and social care: Winter preparedness plan 2024-2025 | 2024 | SG | This winter plan represents a whole system approach to addressing a surge in demand for health, social care and social work services. It sets out actions to help relieve pressure points across the system, applicable throughout the year when we may face increased pressures. |

| Name of resource | Year | Organisation | Description |
|--|------|--------------|--|
| Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Strategy 2023-2025 | 2023 | SG | The Scottish Government strategy for reducing HCAs in the recovery period following the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| Global strategy on infection prevention and control | 2023 | WHO | The WHO IPC strategy highlighting the central role of IPC in combating antimicrobial resistance and in outbreak preparedness, readiness, and response. |
| Health and Social Care: national workforce strategy | 2022 | SG | The Scottish Government strategy for the health and social care workforce. |
| The Infection Prevention Workforce: Strategic Plan 2022 - 2024 | 2022 | SG | The Scottish Government strategy for IPC workforce in all health and care settings. |
| The World Health Organization Guidelines on Core Components of IPC | 2016 | WHO | The WHO Guidelines on Core Components of IPC applicable for any country and suitable to local adaptation. |

List of abbreviations and acronyms

| Abbreviation or acronym | In full |
|-------------------------|---|
| AMR | Antimicrobial resistance |
| AMS | Antimicrobial stewardship |
| ARHAI Scotland | Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland |
| BSI | Blood stream infection |
| CAUTI | Catheter associated urinary tract infection |
| CDC | Centers for Disease Control |
| <i>C.difficile</i> | <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> |
| CI | Care Inspectorate |
| CPE | Carbapenemase-Producing Enterococci |
| CRO | Carbapenem resistant organism |
| DAERA | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland |
| DoHNI | Department of Health Northern Ireland |
| DHSC | Department of Health and Social Care |
| FRSM | Fluid resistant surgical facemasks |
| GI | Gastrointestinal |
| HAI | Hospital acquired infection |
| HCAI | Healthcare associated infection |
| HFS | Health Facilities Scotland |
| HIS | Healthcare Improvement Scotland |
| HMG | His Majesties Government |
| HPS | Health Protection Scotland |
| HSC | Health and social care |
| IPC | Infection prevention and control |
| MDRO | Multi drug resistant organism |

| Abbreviation or acronym | In full |
|-------------------------|---|
| MHRA | Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency |
| MRSA | Meticillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> |
| NES | NHS Education for Scotland |
| NIPCM | National Infection Prevention and Control Manual |
| PPE | Personal protective equipment |
| RCN | Royal College of Nursing |
| RPE | Respiratory protective equipment |
| SAPG | Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group |
| SG | Scottish Government |
| SHPN | Scottish Health Protection Network |
| SICPs | Standard infection control precautions |
| SIGN | Scottish Intercollegiate guidelines Network |
| SIPCEP | Scottish Infection Prevention and Control Education Pathway |
| SSSC | Scottish Social Services Council |
| SUTIN | Scottish UTI Network |
| TBPs | Transmission based precautions. |
| UTI | Urinary tract infection |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WG | Welsh Government |

Disclaimer

Links to materials are provided for informational purposes only and no responsibility is accepted for the quality of resources to be found on such websites. The contents and material made available on linked sites are completely out with our control and as such no liability is accepted for any damages resulting from accessing or failing to access these sites. No endorsement is expressed or implied by the presence of a link on this website. The contents of a linked-to website may change without our knowledge and, as a result, links may break or may terminate on pages which were not the original targets of a link. No responsibility or liability for the privacy of personal information is accepted for linked-to websites, as these are beyond our control.

No responsibility will be taken for any omissions or the content of the toolkit. Any questions regarding any of the guidance documents should be directed to the appropriate organisation.

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