

The Hart Surgery Infection Control Annual Statement 2020-2021

December 2020

Hart Surgery
York Rd
Henley on Thames
RG9 2DR

Purpose

This annual statement will be generated each year *in* accordance with the requirements of The Health and Social Care Act 2008 *Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance*. It summarises:

- Any infection transmission incidents and any action taken (these will have been reported in accordance with our Significant Event procedure)
- Details of any infection control audits undertaken and actions undertaken
- Details of any infection control risk assessments undertaken and resulting actions
- Details of staff training
- Any review and update of policies, procedures and guidelines

Responsibilities- Infection Prevention and Control Leads

The Hart Surgery has two leads for Infection Prevention and Control:

Practice Nurse Fiona Nugent and Nominated GP Dr Chee Pavey

The IPC leads are supported by Hilary Munube, Infection prevention and Control lead OCCG.

There haven't been any face to face Infection Control updates this year due to the Covid pandemic but Fiona Nugent has attended many 'virtual' updates during the crisis as well as face to face mentoring during the set-up of a local Covid Hot Clinic.

Significant Events (Infection Transmission Incidents)

Significant Events are investigated in detail to see what can be learnt and to indicate changes that might lead to future improvements. All significant events are reviewed in the weekly partner meetings and learning is cascaded to all relevant staff

- Covid 2019 has proved to be an enormous IC challenge leading to big changes in the way that we conduct our surgery's this year in order to protect ourselves and our patients from Coronavirus. PPE is now available in every clinical room and is worn by all staff for all face to face contacts. Face masks are worn by all Hart Surgery staff at all times whilst in the building.
- We now conduct the majority of our work wherever possible over the telephone or video link to prevent unnecessary Covid exposure/risk.

- We have a dedicated 'hot room' for seeing patients face to face when we believe there to be an increased risk of CV19. We would in this situation also try to see patients outside in the car park if possible.
- There are increased cleaning procedures carried out across the building.
- We keep an exit door open to increase ventilation and have created one way traffic flow through the building to help maintain social distancing.
- We have installed Perspex screens to protect our reception staff.
- We have been extremely lucky to be provided with a twice weekly swabbing CV19 service by a local lab ensuring that we know that our staff are safe to come in to work.
- We have enabled clinical system access from home for many staff to work from home if self-isolating.
- We provided home access for staff who were required to shield during lockdown earlier in the year.
- The threat from CV19 is ever changing and we keep up to date with the ever changing requirements through email/internal bulletins.

- The only other IC significant event this year has been a fridge thermostability deviation in June. The fridge dropped its temperature to between 1-2 degrees C. No vaccines were lost as all manufacturers were contacted and all vaccines were deemed to be safe to use. No cause was found for the temperature drop although extreme high temperatures earlier in the day may have led to overcompensation according to the engineers.

Infection Prevention Audits and Actions

- The Annual Infection prevention and Control audit was completed by Fiona Nugent in December 2020, Under the IPC guidelines the audit required 95% compliance in all areas , we scored an average of 89.5% virtually the same as in 2019. Most of our issues are related to the pressure on space in The Hart Surgery.
- Minor surgery is carried out at The Hart Surgery and post-operative infection levels are closely monitored.
- Sarah Moberly our practice manager completes regular audits of the cleaners work and both she and PN Fiona Nugent will raise with them the points raised in the IC audit. We have also liaised with them re increased cleaning requirements during the pandemic.
- We are currently mid flu vaccine season and with the added threat from Covid this winter are finding that we have had a greater uptake of vaccine invitations. We try whenever possible to limit the time patients are in the surgery for their flu vaccine by running the clinics in a room with external access.

Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments are carried out so that best practice can be established and then followed.

Legionella: Annually a Legionella advisor prepares and reviews the risk assessments for legionella which is a bacterium that may colonise water systems in cooling towers, hot or cold water systems and storage tanks and could pose a risk to patients, staff or visitors. Regular checks of hot water temperature are carried out by Angela Marriot one of our administrative staff.

Immunisation: As a practice we ensure that all our staff are up to date with their Hepatitis B immunisations and offered any occupational health vaccinations applicable to their role (i.e. MMR, Seasonal Flu). We take part in the National Immunisation campaigns for patients and offer vaccinations in house and via home visits to our patient population. We will soon be able to offer Covid vaccines to our staff too.

Antibiotics: We continue to prescribe according to the OCCG current antibiotic guidelines in the continuing battle to prevent overprescribing of antibiotics and therefore reducing antibiotic resistance.

Training

All our clinical and non-clinical staff have completed when due an infection control e learning module. We have an Infection control workbook for all new staff to complete as part of their induction.

Fiona Nugent our IPC Lead Nurse has attended all 'virtual' IC updates this year throughout the Covid pandemic and fed back information to the rest of the Hart staff.

Review Date

December 2021

Responsibility for Review

The Infection Prevention and Control Leads and the Practice Management are responsible for reviewing and producing the Annual Statement