

Statement Issued: March 2025

Review Date : March 2026

Hart Surgery
York Rd
Henley on Thames
RG9 2DR

The Hart Surgery Infection Control Annual Statement 2025

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

We are now working to the latest standards of healthcare cleanliness
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/national-standards-of-healthcare-cleanliness-2025/>

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 BOB ICB.

There is now also a programme of regular virtual IC update/meetings held on Teams which Fiona Nugent has attended and shared/cascaded relevant information from. There is also a BOB IC teams chat for sharing of information.

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. All are also reviewed/discussed at specific significant event meetings.

We have had no Infection Control significant events this year.

CDiff and MRSA

We have had no cases of MRSA bacteraemia this year and one case of CDiff in our patient population.

Covid 19 infection control

- Covid 2019 proved to be an enormous IC challenge leading to big changes in the way that we conduct our surgery's since early 2019 in order to protect ourselves and our patients from Coronavirus. PPE is available in every clinical room and is worn by all staff according to the current national guidelines. Face masks are currently worn by staff with any respiratory symptoms and patients are requested to do the same.
- All staff are encouraged to stay at home/work from home if feverish/unwell although there is no longer a requirement to test for Covid.
- We continue to offer a mixture of telephone or face to face appointments reducing the risk of transmission of infections.
- We continue to clean clinical rooms/high touch points more frequently.
- We continue to try and keep windows open in clinical rooms to increase ventilation.
- We continue having clinical system access from home for staff to work from home if necessary.
- Since the introduction of the Covid vaccines we have run vaccine clinics for all our eligible patients, we have also immunised against flu as usual over the winter. All of our staff were offered the Autumn Covid booster and a flu vaccine.

Infection Prevention Audits and Actions

- The Annual Infection prevention and Control audit 2024 was completed by Fiona Nugent belatedly in May 2025 . Under the IPC guidelines the audit required 95% compliance in all areas , we scored 95.4% up on last year. Most of our issues continue to be related to the pressure on storage space and the age of the structure of the Hart Surgery.
- Minor surgery is carried out at the Hart Surgery and post-operative infection levels are closely monitored. .
- Our cleaners supervisors/managers complete regular audits of our cleaners work and they liaise with our her when required.

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 one of our staff.

Immunisation: As a practice we ensure that all our clinical 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 have since Dec 2020 been fully involved with the Covid vaccine programme as part of the HenleySonnet PCN.

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

Decontamination lead: Our PN Ann Pearce is our new decontamination lead, she checks a random selection of equipment for cleanliness weekly.

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.

Our IPC policies are available at <https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/gp-practices/policies/>

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

Responsibility for Review

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