

Thaxted Surgery
Infection Control Summary Statement – Summer 2015

Introduction

This statement summarises the current status of infection control at Thaxted Surgery. It is produced by our infection control lead, nurse practitioner Louise Burgess, and our practice manager.

The statement summarises:

- Responsibilities
- Risk assessment, and the policies in place to address those risks
- A current assessment of our compliance, and actions to increase compliance
- Infection Control training.

Responsibilities

The Infection Control lead is a clinician who has overall responsibility for infection control policies and procedures within the surgery. She is responsible for understanding the risks, developing policies that address the risks and comply with regulation, monitoring our outcomes and compliance, and identifying changes to practice where appropriate. She works closely with the practice manager, whose role is to provide backing and authority, and help ensure that changes to are fully and sustainably implemented across the practice.

Risk Assessment & Policies

The following table identifies the key risks which are dealt with as part of infection control within Thaxted Surgery, and indexes the policies that address those risks.

The policies themselves are stored electronically, on our intranet, under a clearly marked directory, “Premises and Infection Control” accessible to all staff. The policies have all been reviewed and updated within the last year, but the infection control lead and practice manager jointly.

Key Risks	Policies that address the risk
Infection of service users resulting from poor hygiene by staff	Infection Prevention and Control Policy
Clinical Waste not correctly disposed of resulting in infection of staff and service users	Waste Management Policy
Sharps not securely disposed of, resulting in injury and contamination of service users or staff	Waste Management policy
Spillage of dangerous chemicals and/or body fluids resulting in injury and/or infection of staff or service users	Decontamination policy
Infection of service users resulting from poor environmental cleanliness	Decontamination policy
Infection of service users resulting from poor cleanliness of medical equipment	Infection Prevention and Control Policy (sets out our approach to single use items) Decontamination policy
Injury to service users (including incorrect diagnosis & resulting incorrect treatment) resulting from medical equipment that is not functioning correctly	Inspection, Calibration and Replacement of Equipment policy

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Vaccine degradation resulting from breaking cold chain, resulting in administering ineffective and/or dangerous vaccines	Cold Chain policy
Vaccines not secure resulting in loss or theft or inappropriate use	Cold Chain policy
Needlestick injury resulting in infection	Needlestick and Accidental Exposure Policy
Inability to react quickly in an emergency due to inadequate, out of date or inaccessible emergency drugs	Checking expiry dates of Emergency Drugs policy

Compliance Statement, as at summer 2015

Significant Events

We have had no significant events relating to infection control over the past two years at Thaxted surgery.

Audit

In Summer 2013, we undertook a major infection control audit using an external supplier. They produced a list of areas to address, and we produced an action plan. This year, we re-audited ourselves, using the same audit tool. Overall, compliance was better, however, some further actions were identified and are planned for the coming year. These include:

- Hold an internal training session for all staff, delivered by the nurses
- More rigorous approach to defrosting and cleaning vaccine fridges
- On-going correction of buildings maintenance items
- More rigorous cleaning process for reusable medical equipment – particularly ear syringing machines

Training and Expertise

Infection control is an integral part of our nurses' professional training, and we identify any training needs as part of nurses' annual appraisals. We have trained one of our health care assistants in wound management this year, a part of which was infection control.

Once a year, our infection control lead talks to all staff about infection control as part of staff meetings at shutdowns.



Sara Carruthers, Practice Manager, Summer 2015