

Thaxted Surgery
Infection Control Summary Statement – 2018

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 or 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 March 2018

Incidents

We have had one incident relating to infection control over the past two years at Thaxted surgery. In November 2016, a nurse took a swab from a patient's wound. The wound healed, but test result came back as MRSA +ve. The nurse reviewed the results, but took no action to inform the patient. 3 months later, the patient was in hospital for an unrelated matter, and was not aware of being MRSA +ve. The nurse in question was fully aware of protocol and that the patient should have been informed - it was a matter of oversight.

Audit

In March 2018, we undertook a major infection control audit internally. This produced a list of areas to address, and we produced an action plan to be reassessed in 6 months.

Some actions were identified and are planned for the coming year. These include:

- Hold an internal training session for all staff, delivered by the nurses, to include hand washing
- On-going correction of buildings maintenance items and working closely with cleaning staff
- Conduct a full review of all protocols (last wholesale review being now over 2 years ago)

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. This year, our nursing lead responsible for infection control has attended an external 1 day infection control refresher course. Our 2 HCAs have both completed NVQ3 Health Care Assistant qualification this year, which included wound management and infection control.

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

Addendum – October 2018

During the building work for the health centre extension, more frequent infection prevention and control monitoring will be undertaken. This is to take into account the changing working environment during the disruption.