

## Infection Prevention and Control Service

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### Purpose

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The IPC Service delivers quality infection prevention and control services to minimise the occurrence and spread of infection across the local health system. It promotes excellence in IPC practice and strategically deploys its resources to improve safety for patients, staff and visitors in our health care facilities.

### Policy

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There is a managed environment which minimises the risk of infection to consumers, service providers and visitors which is appropriate to the size and scope of the organisation. The responsibility of infection prevention and control is clearly defined and there are clear lines of accountability for infection prevention and control matters in the organisation.

### Applicability

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All employees of Waitaha Canterbury and Te Tai o Poutini West Coast.

### Vision

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Healthcare-associated infections and the spread of harmful pathogens across the local health system are minimised through excellence in IPC practice. There is a deeply embedded culture among all staff whereby best practice to minimise infection risk to patients, staff and visitors to healthcare facilities is the accepted norm.

### Legislative Requirements and National Standards

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The Infection Prevention and Control Service is obliged to comply with Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001 and is mandated to ensure Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Canterbury and Te Tai o Poutini West Coast can demonstrate compliance with the Ngā Paerewa Health and Disability Services Standard (NZS 8134:2021) Outcome 5 Te Kaupare Pokenga Me Te Kaitiakitanga Patu Huakita (Infection Prevention and Antimicrobial Stewardship).

### Roles and Responsibilities

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#### Infection Prevention and Control Advisory Committee

Oversight and governance for the IPC Service is provided by the Infection Prevention and Control Advisory Committee (IPCAC). Membership includes a senior Infectious Disease Physician (Chairperson), a senior Clinical Microbiologist, a senior Public Health Physician, the Clinical Director – Infection Prevention and Control, the Nursing Director – Infection Prevention and Control, a senior Primary Care General Practitioner and a senior Primary Care Nursing Leader.

The role of the IPCAC is to set strategic priorities and guide action in the prevention and control of infection to improve and sustain quality of care across the local health system and to keep patients, staff and visitors to health care facilities safe.

The IPCAC is responsible for oversight of strategic prioritisation; decision-making; policy development and modification; risk management advice relevant to the prevention of healthcare-associated, infection-related risks in both community and healthcare settings across the Canterbury Health System.

### **IPC Committees - Waitaha Canterbury and Te Tai o Poutini West Coast**

The Waitaha Canterbury and Te Tai o Poutini West Coast Infection Prevention and Control Committees operationally supports the IPCAC. These committees provide a mechanism for members to influence decision-making related to infection prevention and control activities. They have a responsibility to communicate IPC-related issues to IPCAC.

### **Infection Prevention and Control Operational Team**

The team is led by the Nursing Director – Infection Prevention and Control, who is responsible for ensuring delivery of the IPC Annual programme, recruiting and managing nursing and administrative staff, and managing budget and operational resource. The Clinical Director – Infection Prevention and Control collaborates closely with the Nursing Director and provides in-depth medical microbiology and IPC subject matter expertise to the nursing team.

Clinical Nurse Specialists and Registered Nurses with the range of skills and expertise necessary to implement, co-ordinate and document delivery of the annual IPC programme. The responsibilities of the IPC Operational Team may include but is not limited to:

- Provide education and promote best practice of infection prevention and control among staff.
- Provide advice via telephone/pager/email (service provided during normal working hours, after hour's advice by the Microbiologist via the relevant hospital telephonist).
- Develop and implement policies and procedures as required.
- Monitor adherence to infection prevention and control policies and procedures (audit and feedback).
- Provide advice and guidance during an outbreak.
- Undertake surveillance activities.
- Provide infection prevention and control advice and guidance for patients and staff with multi drug resistant organisms.
- Evaluate new products that may impact on healthcare acquired infection
- Provide advice and guidance for minimising healthcare acquired infection during renovation and construction activities
- Provide an advisory service to long term care facilities.
- Collaborate with Occupational Health in the follow up of staff with Blood and Body Fluid Exposure as required

### **Infection Prevention and Control Champions**

The role of the Infection Prevention and Control Champions group is to provide a forum and mechanism for relevant infection prevention and control information to be relayed between the clinical area and the Infection Prevention and Control Operational Team.

## Policy and Guidelines

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The Infection Prevention and Control Service is responsible for reviewing, updating and developing Infection Prevention and Control policies and guidelines.

IPC policies and guidelines are to be found in the following locations:

- On the Intranet via the [Clinical Quick Links](#) section
- [On the organisational Internet site](#)

Policies and guidelines are updated every three years based on evidence and outcomes-based research to guide best practice.

## Infection Prevention and Control Intranet Site

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IPC resources and information are made accessible for staff on the IPC intranet site, and are maintained by the IPC operational team. These resources are maintained in accordance with the controlled documents policy.

## Measurement/Evaluation

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Information related to this policy may be audited annually as a component of Infection Prevention & Control Service against strategic and operational objectives and performance indicators described in the following documents:

Infection Prevention & Control Advisory Committee “Statement of Strategic Intent”

Infection Prevention & Control Annual Programme

## Associated material

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### Controlled documents

- Infection Prevention & Control Annual Programme

### Supporting documents

- Infection Prevention & Control Executive Committee “Statement of Strategic Intent”

## References

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- Ngā Paerewa Health and Disability Services Standard (NZS 8134:2021) – Outcome 5 Te Kaupare Pokenga Me Te Kaitiakitanga Patu Huakita (Infection Prevention and Antimicrobial Stewardship)