

Infection Prevention and Control Service

Purpose

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

Policy

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

All employees of Canterbury DHB.

Vision

Healthcare-associated infections and the spread of harmful pathogens across the Canterbury Healthcare System are minimised through excellence in IPC practice. There is a deeply embedded culture among all CDHB 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

The Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) is obliged to comply with Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001. The CDHB Infection Prevention and Control Service (IPC Service) is mandated to ensure the CDHB can demonstrate compliance with the New Zealand Health and Disability Services (Infection Prevention and Control) Standards NZS 8134.3:2008.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governance:

Infection Prevention and Control Executive Committee

Oversight and governance for the CDHB IPC Service is provided by the CDHB Infection Prevention and Control Executive Committee (IPCEC). 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 IPCEC is to set strategic priorities and guide action in the prevention and control of infection to improve and sustain quality of care across the Canterbury Health System and to keep patients, staff and visitors to health care facilities safe.

The IPCEC 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. The IPCEC meets monthly and reports directly to the CDHB Executive Management Team and the CEO.

CDHB Infection Prevention and Control Committees

The IPCEC is supported operationally by the CDHB Infection Prevention and Control Committee (IPCC). This is a multi-disciplinary committee that meets regularly (at least five times a year) as well as forming sub-committees for policy development and review as required. The role of the CDHB Infection Prevention and Control Committee is to 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 with implications for the CDHB to IPCEC

Each Division has an Infection Prevention and Control committee, whose role is to provide a mechanism for members to influence decision-making related to infection prevention and control activities pertaining to their divisional clinical areas. These committees meet in accordance with their own terms of reference (typically bi-monthly). The Chair or nominated individuals from these committees have responsibility to communicate IPC-related issues from divisional areas to the CDHB IPCC.

Infection Prevention and Control Operational Team

The IPC Service Operational Team is led by the Clinical Director – Infection Prevention and Control and the Nursing Director – Infection Prevention and Control. The team includes Clinical Nurse Specialists and Registered Nurses with the range of skills and expertise necessary to implement, coordinate and document delivery of the annual IPC programme across the CDHB including Ashburton and Rural Health Services, Burwood Hospital (Older Persons Health and Rehabilitation Service), Community Services, Medical & Surgical Services, Specialist Mental Health Service, and Woman's and Child Health.

The responsibilities of the IP&C Operational Team may include but is not limited to:

- Provide education and promote best practice of infection prevention and control among staff who work for the Canterbury DHB.
- 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 Link Representatives

Each division within the Canterbury DHB has an Infection Prevention and Control Link representative group. The purpose 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 Service.

Infection Prevention & Control Programme and Action Plans

The IP&C Operational Team are responsible for reviewing and updating the Infection Prevention & Control Annual Programme (IP&CAP) and the Infection Prevention and Control Quality Action Plan in compliance with NZS 8134.3:2008. The programme is endorsed by IPCEC.

The IP&C Quality Action Plan forms the IP&C Team's operational document which details how the year's objectives will be achieved

Policy and Guidelines

The Infection Prevention and Control Service is responsible for reviewing, updating and developing new Infection Prevention and Control policies and guidelines in Canterbury DHB institutions.

CDHB IP&C policies and guidelines are to be found in the following locations:

- On the Intranet via the [Clinical Quick Links](#) section
- [On the CDHB 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

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

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 Executive Committee “Statement of Strategic Intent” 2019-2020
CDHB Infection Prevention & Control Annual Programme (IP&CAP)

Associated material

Controlled documents

- CDHB Infection Prevention & Control Annual Programme (IP&CAP)

Supporting research

- Infection Prevention & Control Executive Committee “Statement of Strategic Intent” 2019-2020

References

- NZS 8134.3:2008 Health and Disability Services (Infection prevention and Control) Standards