

ARCH HEALTHCARE
INFECTION CONTROL ANNUAL STATEMENT
2019/2020



Purpose:

This annual statement is generated each year in April. It will summarise:

- Any infection transmission incidents and any actions taken (these will also have been actioned via our significant events procedure)
- Details of infection control audits undertaken and actions that were put in place.
- Details of any infection control risks assessments undertaken
- Details of staff training and new staff induction
- Any review of policies, procedures or guidelines.

Background:

Arch Healthcare has one lead for infection control; Lead Nurse Hannah Bishop, supported by practice nurse Nessa McCarthy.

Hannah Bishop attends yearly infection control study days and CCG Infection Control meetings.

Following the study days and meetings information and updates are shared with the team through practice meetings and emails to the team.

Significant Events:

In 2019/20 there have not been any significant events raised in relation to infection control.

Audits:

In March 2020 an Infection Control Audit was undertaken by Hannah. An action Plan was completed following the audit that summarised the areas that needed improving or where action needed to be taken. The action plan has been regularly reviewed in order to monitor progress in making the necessary changes. Monthly audits are also undertaken to monitor vaccines, waste and sharps. Previously, an audit was carried out in March 2019, the action plan for this was followed and actions taken throughout the year as required.

Assessment of risk:

Risk assessments are carried out so best practice can be established and risk modified where possible. Premises are checked each day and spot checks carried out throughout the year.

Staff document the cleaning of non-invasive equipment against a check list on a weekly basis.

All clinical rooms are cleaned as per the National Guidelines by the staff employed by Sussex Community Foundation Trust Facilities team. There is regular contact with SCFT to monitor and address any problems identified with cleaning.

There is an Infection Control risk assessment, live document which monitors and mitigates for risks in relation to infection control within the surgery. This is regularly reviewed and risks are regularly reassessed.

Arch Healthcare will inform patients of any seasonal or notifiable diseases that they need to be aware of, this will be through posters in reception, during their consultations and if deemed required, a text to all patients with advice and guidance will be sent.

Cleaning specification, frequencies and cleanliness of equipment:

Hannah Bishop works with SCFT to ensure the standards of cleaning required for general practice are met.

Arch Healthcare has a decontamination policy (within the Infection Control Policy) which ensures the cleanliness of all clinical equipment. Clinical staff are updated annually on this policy. Staff are aware of single use equipment and are trained on the safe disposal of single use only equipment.

All clinical rooms have detergent wipes available to ensure compliance with cleaning of equipment.

Curtains/Blinds:

Arch Healthcare has various blinds, both at windows around the building and in clinical areas and consulting rooms. SCFT supply a cleaning schedule to ensure the blinds are clean as per the recommended standards. Regular reviews are undertaken with SCFT and any inadequacies are actioned. Privacy curtains in consulting and treatment rooms are disposable and are changed every 6 months as per the policy. Should a privacy curtain become soiled before its scheduled change then they are changed at that time.

Infectious Diseases:

Patients who are thought to have an infectious disease are asked to come to the surgery only at the designated time for their appointment. We do not have the facilities to accommodate patients in a separate area and so all reasonable steps are taken to ensure patients are adequately separated from other patients using the surgery.

Arch Healthcare takes a proactive approach to the prevention of spread of infectious diseases and actively screens and immunises patients against HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis as appropriate.

COVID 19

In February 2020 the first case of Covid 19 was identified in the local area, subsequently Covid 19 has become widespread in community transmission. Consequently, Arch Healthcare has followed all local and national guidance and adapted working practices to reduce spread and keep patients and staff safe. For Arch healthcare, this has meant moving much of the GP consultations to telephone, having designated times to see and assess patients at the surgery, working across local practices to see patients with potential Covid 19 symptoms in 'Hot Sites'. Patients requiring woundcare, blood tests and other essential procedures are still being seen with additional personal protective equipment used. Arch are also working to keep staff safe by working from home where possible, reducing numbers of staff in office areas and reducing face to face contact.

Staff Training:

At Arch Healthcare Infection Control and Hand Washing training is undertaken each year. This years handwashing training and audit was conducted in January 2020, it is due to be repeated in September 2020.

Policies and Procedures, Guidelines:

Policies relating to Infection Control are reviewed annually and updated accordingly, as required.

New evidence and guidelines are included as they become available and relevant procedures and policies amended.

Arch healthcare has adopted and followed all national infection control guidelines as they are updated and introduced in relation to Covid 19.