

Infection Control Statement – October 2023

Purpose

This annual statement will be generated each year in October in accordance with the requirements of The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance. It summarises:

- Any infection transmission incidents and any action taken (these will have been reported in accordance with our Significant Event procedure).
- Details of any infection control audits undertaken, and actions undertaken.
- Details of any risk assessments undertaken for prevention and control of infection.
- Details of staff training.
- Any review and update of policies, procedures, and guidelines.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Lead

Ashfield Dental Clinic Lead for Infection Prevention and Control: Michelle Wallace. Michelle completes IPC training courses and keeps updated on infection prevention best practice.

Infection transmission incidents (Significant Events)

Significant events (which may involve examples of good practice as well as challenging events) are investigated in detail to see what can be learnt and to indicate changes that might lead to future improvements. All significant events are reviewed each month, and any learning is cascaded to all relevant staff and discussed in Practice meetings.

Infection Prevention Audit

Infection Prevention and Control audits were completed by Michelle Wallace in April and October 2023.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are carried out so that best practice can be established and then followed. In the last year the following risk assessments were carried out / reviewed:

- Independent External Third-Party Legionella (Water) Risk Assessment: The practice has conducted its water safety risk assessment to ensure that the water supply does not pose a risk to patients, visitors, or staff.
- Sharps Risk Assessment: The practice conducted its sharps risk assessment to ensure that the risk to staff and patients from needle stick injuries are minimised.
- Immunisation: As a practice we ensure that all our staff are up to date with their Hepatitis B immunisations and offered any occupational health vaccinations applicable to their role.

Outcomes

As a result of any reported actions from significant events, audits or risk assessments, Ashfield Dental Clinic:

- Continued with an annual infection control update for both clinical and non-clinical staff.
- Ensured Infection Control Guidance remains accessible to all staff.
- Replaced surgery computer keyboards with wipeable covers to wipeable keyboards.
- Revised procedures to incorporate WL clean & WL CID for handpiece lubrication.
- New hand soap, sanitiser and cream dispensers have been installed throughout the practice.

- Clinical waste bags are now labelled prior to disposal.
- Standard operating procedures were updated.
- Checklists were updated to record and ensure correct compliance.
- Sinks and extractor fans in the decontamination room are to be changed when the decontamination room is refurbished.

Training

All our staff receive annual training in infection prevention and control.

The clinical team attended an annual Infection Control Update and completed an annual e-learning IPC course.

Policies

All Infection Prevention and Control related policies are in date for this year.

Policies relating to Infection Prevention and Control are available to all staff and are reviewed and updated annually, and all are amended on an on-going basis as current advice, guidance, and legislation changes. Infection Control policies are circulated amongst staff for reading.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of each individual to be familiar with this statement and their roles and responsibilities under this.

Responsibility for Review

The Infection Prevention and Control Lead and the Practice Manager are responsible for reviewing and producing the Annual Statement.

Practice Manager – Dr Carolyn Renton
Infection, Prevention Control Lead – Michelle Wallace (Head Nurse)