

# Infection Prevention and Control Annual Statement

## Introduction

Good hygiene procedures and effective infection prevention and control are of paramount importance in protecting the health of people who use our services as well as upholding the reputation of primary care providers and, ultimately, our Practice.

*The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice for Health and adult Social Care on the Prevention and Control of Infections and Related Guidance* sets out the key activities that should be undertaken by all NHS organisations with respect to good practice.

EAST COWES SURGERY understands that the processes of good infection control must be of a consistently high standard, and therefore require regular review, reflection and assessment to ensure they are both comprehensive and fit for purpose.

East Cowes Surgery works in conjunction with the Isle of Wight ICB and our local NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight IPC team to ensure effective communication and co-ordination of systems and processes ensure that where infection can occur, there are policies, protocols and systems in place to support prevention and transmission.

## Infection Prevention and Control Team

The Infection Prevention and Control Team at East Cowes Surgery has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that excellent infection control policies, protocols and systems are in place, and that all staff understand their content and are properly trained to follow the rules and guidance they establish.

However, each member of staff at the Practice has their own part to play in ensuring they rigorously follow the correct processes without supervision (see *Duties and responsibilities of all Staff*, below)

East Cowes Infection Prevention and Control team are: -

- GP Dr Hembra Pine-Abata
- Practice Nurse Tracy Crabbe
- Antimicrobial Steward Dr Rachel Howard
- Isle of Wight ICB
- With advice and support from Hampshire and Isle of Wight IPC Team

## Duties and Responsibilities of all Staff

By using established policies, procedures and systems, and taking responsibility for their own actions, staff members at East Cowes Surgery aim to consistently achieve the following:

- Optimum Hand Hygiene
- Use PPE correctly and effectively
- Handle and dispose of sharps safely
- Handle and dispose of clinical waste safely
- Manage blood and body fluids safely
- Decontaminate equipment thoroughly
- Create and maintain a clean clinical environment
- Use indwelling devices appropriately
- Prevent and manage accidents effectively
- Provide good, clear communication with other health care workers, patients, visitors and external bodies.

All staff are expected to do annual infection prevention and control training (or sooner subject to emergence of new legislation) relevant to their position within the surgery. This to include hand decontamination, hand washing procedures and use of Personal Protective equipment.

Infection Prevention and control training will be undertaken by all new staff within 4 weeks of their start date.

## Documentation and Policies

East Cowes Surgery refers to Infection Prevention and control Policies which include:-

- Hand Hygiene
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Cleaning and Decontamination
- Handling Specimens
- Waste Management
- Spillage
- Needle Stick Injuries
- Sharps Management
- Asepsis
- Infectious disease/isolation policy.

Policies related to IPC are available to all staff and are reviewed and updated annually, or sooner if relevant to any current advice, guidance and legislation changes, by the iPC team.

## Risk Assessments and audits

Risk assessments and audits are carried out so that best practice can be established and then followed.

In the last year the following risk assessments were undertaken: -

- Legionella (Water) risk assessment. The practice has reviewed its water safety risk assessment to ensure that the water supply does not pose a risk to patients, visitors or staff. NHS Properties are responsible for the maintenance and reviews of the water system, and these are checked annually.
- Immunisation: East Cowes Surgery takes part in the National immunisation campaigns for patients and offer vaccinations in house and via home visits to our practice population. All staff are offered a flu and covid vaccination annually and encouraged to ensure they are up to date with all vaccinations as per the national immunisations program.
- Curtains: The NHS Cleaning specifications state that curtains should be cleaned or if using disposable curtains, replaced every 6 months. To this effect we use disposable curtains and ensure they are changed every 6 months. All curtains are regularly reviewed and changed if visibly soiled.
- Cleaning specifications, frequencies and cleanliness: An assessment of cleanliness is conducted by the cleaning and IPC teams. All staff are responsible in ensuring equipment is cleaned and audit sheets are completed on each shift.
- Top Mops Ltd are the cleaning company contracted to East Cowes and attend every evening to clean the surgery. A manager from Top Mops does quarterly audits with the IPC lead at the surgery to ensure all processes are being achieved to a high standard.

## Significant Events

Significant events analysis should act as a learning process for the practice, as significant events can reflect good as well as bad practice.

In relation to infection control, in the past year, there have been no significant events raised. All significant events if they are to happen are reviewed and discussed in practice meetings each month. Any learning points are cascaded to all relevant staff where an action plan, including audits or policy review may follow.

## Audits

Infection Prevention and Control audits are carried out by Tracy Crabbe, IPC Lead.

These cover all areas within the surgery to ensure IPC standards are maintained such as in Waste Management, Domestic Cleaning, General Management, Vaccines, Environment, Clinical, Hand Hygiene and PPE and Sharps Handling and disposal.

Antimicrobial stewardship audits are completed also to ensure antibiotic prescribing within the Practice is within local and national limits.

### Summary

All staff undertake IPC training and are committed to maintaining high standards of Infection prevention and cleanliness at East Cowes Surgery.

Regular training, audits and reviews are important to the prevention of healthcare associated infection and are monitored by East Cowes Management team and the IPC team.

This Annual Statement will be reviewed and updated on or before 16/4/26

**Signed**

16/4/25

Tracy Crabbe. IPC Lead  
East Cowes Surgery