

SA5 – The service implements and monitors systems to manage the risk of infection.

- a) Minimising the risk of infection is essential for patient and staff safety. Good practice guidance suggests that policies and protocols for infection control should be developed, agreed, maintained and applied throughout the service. Processes and protocols should be grounded in current best practice and reflect professional guidance and statutory requirements. Staff should be aware of the protocols and how to access them, and any changes should be communicated to them.
- b) Effective infection control requires the definition and assessment of risks and the management of incidence and possible incidence of infection. Policies and processes should be implemented covering:
 - hand hygiene;
 - work-based clothing/attire/uniforms, including the use of gloves and gowns (taking account of possible skin sensitivities and allergies);
 - personal protective equipment;
 - clinical equipment including linen;
 - control of the environment (see also standard statement FR1);
 - managing blood and bodily fluid spillages;
 - movement of patients with an infection to, from and within the service; and
 - Record of cleaning undertaken as necessary.
- c) Information regarding the service's systems and processes for preventing and controlling infection should be available to patients and the public. Specific information should be given to patients about any healthcare-associated infections relevant to their care and any preventative measures the patient is able to take to reduce the risks.
- d) Specific processes should be in place to manage patients who may have contagious or communicable diseases, or those who have suppressed immune systems. These should include arrangements in place for these patients to be allocated to a separate waiting area or taken directly to the examination room, where possible. Staff involved should be provided with appropriate protective equipment.
- e) All staff should be trained and aware of their responsibility to minimise infection. The service may wish to establish an infection control team, to operate in accordance with organisational policy.
- f) Systems should be in place to prevent and manage healthcare-associated infections in staff and others. Processes should be in place to care for staff and others exposed to contagious or communicable diseases, including timely administration of vaccinations and/or prophylactic medication. Treatment should be offered after an incident and staff should be supported and offered counselling.
- g) Equipment, including ancillary equipment, should be properly cleaned and decontaminated in accordance with manufacturers' instructions after coming into contact with patients with contagious and communicable diseases, or following any incident. Areas affected in any

incident should be cleaned and decontaminated (see also standard statement FR1). There must be a process in place to ensure adequate protection of all staff, including maintenance staff, with appropriate decontamination equipment available prior to handover.

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Legislation

The Health Act 2006 Part 2. Prevention and control of health care associated infections.

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The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992.

www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1992/Uksi_19922966_en_1.htm

Website

Public Health England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

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