

Detection, management & reporting infections commonly found in care settings

Early detection, management and reporting of infections, commonly found in care settings, helps to:

- Prevent ill health, deterioration, hospitalisation and sometimes death, caused by infections
- Prevent onward transmission of infections to other residents, staff and visitors
- Maintain accurate local surveillance & monitoring
- Ensure compliance with the Health and Social Care Act 2008, code of practice on the prevention and control of infections, and CQC regulations.

Detection:

Ensure staff:

- Are aware of the signs of infections (see attached guidance)
- Observe for the signs of infections in residents, staff & visitors
- Ensure all staff know what relevant IPC measures (infection, prevention & control) or TBPs (transmission based precautions) need to be implemented for an infection incident or outbreak
- Undertake clinical observations e.g, temperature, pulse, oxygen saturations, blood pressure and observe consciousness levels
- Record all signs of infections, observations and actions in the resident/s care records.

Escalation:

Ensure staff:

- Report concerns of infections in residents or staff to a senior member of staff/nominated individual immediately
- Maintain a line list of resident/s and/or staff symptoms of infection
- Maintain relevant IPC & TBPs within the setting, as appropriate
- Place an outbreak sign on the front door of the home
- Ensure residents, family members & visitors are informed of the outbreak & undertake relevant IPC measures e.g. restricted visiting, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene
- Are informed at each handover of all residents and staff who have an infection (discuss resident/s listed on line list/s)

- **The senior member of staff/nominated individual should refer the resident/s, to a GP, Cumbria Health, 111, or dial 999 to request an ambulance, as necessary.**

Reporting:

- **All suspected or confirmed infections incidents (1 case) or outbreaks (2 or more cases) should be reported**
- Infections which should be reported include:
 - Respiratory infections
 - Skin infections
 - Gastrointestinal infections (see attached guidance)
- The senior member of staff/nominated individual should report to IPC Cumberland Council immediately via email: IPC@Cumberland.gov.uk
- During an incident or outbreak, any **new cases** should be updated on the line list and reported to IPC@Cumberland.gov.uk
- Other notifiable diseases (NOIDs) should be reported to the UKHSA at: cl.hpt@ukhsa.gov.uk or by phone: **0344 225 0562**

Reporting infections in care settings is an all-year-round requirement (not just during winter months).

IPC management & support:

Cumberland Council's IPC team will:

- Provide advice and support in line with national and/or local policies until incident or outbreak closure
- Activate the acute respiratory infection (ARI) testing and antiviral pathway, as needed
- Undertake risk assessments for new admissions to the setting during an outbreak
- Advise on terminal cleaning schedules & dates when restrictions can be lifted.

The IPC team email is staffed Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm, and Fridays 9am-4.30pm

To report infections outside of these hours, on weekends or bank holidays contact UKHSA at cl.hpt@ukhsa.gov.uk or by phone on: **03442250562**.

Calls to UKHSA should be followed up with an email to IPC@Cumberland.gov.uk

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General signs and symptoms of infection:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Chills/sweats
- Muscle aches
- Redness or swelling to an area such as a wound or joint
- Pain
- Loss of function such as difficulty using the affected area

Signs and symptoms of a UTI:

- Frequent urination
- Difficulty passing urine
- Pain or burning sensation
- Cloudy or foul-smelling urine
- Blood in urine
- Lower abdominal pain
- Fever or chills
- Nausea and vomiting

Signs and symptoms of an acute respiratory infection:

- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or blocked nose
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Shortness of breath
- Body aches
- Decreased intake
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea

Signs and symptoms of a gastrointestinal infection:

- Diarrhoea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Abdominal pain and cramping
- Loss of appetite
- Fever and chills
- Fatigue

Signs and symptoms of Scabies:

- Intense itching, especially at night
- A raised rash or spots
- Skin irritation and inflammation in affected areas
- Sores or painful bumps that can become infected due to itching
- Burrowing tracks or bumps that appear as raised skin-coloured lines

Signs and symptoms of Shingles:

- Tingling or painful feeling in an area of skin
- Headache or feeling generally unwell
- A rash on one side of the body
- Rash becomes blistered that ooze and then dry out and scab over