

Board of Directors' Statement of commitment to the principles of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Health Care Associated Infections

2025- 2026

The Trust Board is committed to compliance with its duties under the Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance (Updated July 2022). The Board has collective responsibility for infection prevention and control including minimising the risks of infection.

The successful management, prevention and control of infection is recognised by the Trust as a key factor in the quality and safety of the care of our patients and of those in the local health community, and in the safety and wellbeing of our staff and visitors.

The Trust has pledged to carry out these duties by:

1. Management, organisation, and the environment

- Protecting patients, staff, and others from healthcare associated infection (HCAI)
- Ensuring a robust IPC Annual Work plan is in place with progress against this routinely monitored
- Actively implementing management systems to prevent and control infections
- Assessing the risks of acquiring an HCAI in the hospital environment and taking action to reduce or control these risks
- Providing a clean and appropriate environment
- Providing information on HCAI to patients and the public
- Providing information when a patient moves from the care of one healthcare body to another
- Always co-operating with other health care professionals
- Providing facilities to prevent or minimise the spread of HCAI
- Maintaining micro-biology and laboratory working alongside the management of the (antimicrobial resistance) AMR agenda.

2. Clinical care protocols:

- Have in place appropriate evidence-based core policies and standard operating procedures that are monitored and maintained so providing clear guidance on the prevention and control of HCAI in the hospital environment.

3. Health care workers:

- Ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that staff are free of and protected from exposure to communicable infections
- Ensuring staff have access to appropriate personal protective equipment and the training in the use thereof to reduce the risks of transmission of infection

- Access to relevant occupational health services is provided to all staff
- Ensuring that all staff are educated in the prevention and control of HCAI.

The Board receives assurance that the Trust fulfils its duties to minimising the risks of infection through the Infection Prevention and Control Group (IPCG), chaired by the Director of Infection, Prevention and Control (DIPC). The IPCG is a sub-group of the Quality Committee reporting to the Board of Directors.

The Board receives regular updates through the Integrated Performance Report, the IPC Group, the Director of Infection Prevention and Control annual report and exception reports. It has terms of reference and produces an annual plan, both of which are reported to the Board.

The DIPC is appointed by the Board and reports directly to the Chief Executive and the Board. The post holder is a member of the Trust Management Group and Quality Committee and leads production of an annual report. The DIPC role is incorporated in the Chief Nursing Officer portfolio and the post holder is assisted in discharging the relevant responsibilities by the Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control, Infection Prevention and Control Nurse Consultant, Infection Prevention and Control Doctor and the Infection Control Team

Endorsed and adopted by the Board of Directors

For review January 2026