Role of an ‘Infection Prevention and Control Support Worker’ (IPCSW) – first 6 months experience

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Improvement issue and context.
- The role of an ‘Infection Prevention and Control Support Worker’ (IPCSW) is a newly created role within our existing IPC nursing team.
- Using the principles of a ‘Healthcare Assistant’, the role has been established specifically to assist the IPC delivery plan and to release the qualified IPC nurses to focus on key strategic and operational issues.

Methods
Over the first 6 months since the post was established, the various tasks delegated to the IPCSW were reviewed. Success was measured by evidence of completion of tasks and feedback from the IPC team. Little evidence of literature around the role of the IPCSW.

Evidence of improvements
Using agreed methodologies, 5 IPC audits were successfully completed.
- storage of breast milk and decontamination of equipment
- ward pantries
- bed pan and commodes
- ward environments
- hand hygiene compliance.

The IPCSW also initiated the following projects:
- review of staff changing facilities
- environmental cleanliness evaluation by ATP monitoring
- water sampling for pseudomonas
- training ward and domestic staff on disinfection practices
- hand hygiene product evaluation on critical care and oncology units, introducing KWIK Isolation screens into high dependency unit.

Future development
The IPCSW role is well established within the IPC team. The role allows for a targeted approach to IPC which is improving compliance Trust wide. A future area of role development will be supporting the Trust’s surgical site surveillance programme.