A New Tool in Infection Prevention & Control

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**Introduction**

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) believes that every person in Scotland should receive the best healthcare possible every time they come into contact with health services. Standards set by HIS required healthcare organisations to implement a systematic programme of audit that includes monitoring of standard infection control precautions (SICPs) compliance and the implementation of transmission based precautions (TBPs). Development of a new tool for audit has been identified as a priority by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT).

**Methods**

In 2015, NHSGGC IPC Audit Group in conjunction with Infection Prevention and Control Lead Nurses reviewed the existing IPC audit tool to determine gaps in monitoring and again synchronised data was available immediately via the audit dashboard (Illustration 1). The Senior Charge Nurse (SCN) for an audit area is alert to any actions overdue via an automated email. A scheduler is available via the platform to facilitate IPC audit planning.

A huge benefit in the new system is the ability to click into the live action plans, highlighting incorrect actions to eliminate or reduce risk: –

**Results**

By working together with IT colleagues, the PCT have redesigned systems to provide a quality driven and streamlined infection prevention and control audit process for NHSGGC. The benefits of the new system include reduced administration time, real time reporting and improved efficiency.

IPCAT meets both local and national monitoring requirements and can be used as a quality indicator. IPCNs and service users have expressed satisfaction with IPCAT and recognise audit results can be used to drive improvement by communicating risks and recommending corrective actions to eliminate or reduce risk.

“A huge benefit in the new system is the ability to click into the live action plans, highlighting any outstanding issues that I can then discuss with the team, and provide support to complete.” NHSSGSC Chief Nurse Paediatrics and Neonates

**Recommendations**

IPCAT was rolled out during 2015 to provide a system for the ongoing measurement of safe infection control practice in Acute care within NHSSGSC.

The benefits of revised audit criteria and introduction of a web based platform for data capture and reporting can now be replicated in other areas.

NHSSGSC IPC is currently working on development of IPCAT specific to areas such as mental health, theatres and the outpatient department.

Once development is complete NHSSGSC IPCAT will comprise a suite of audits to facilitate monitoring of standards and compliance in a bid to ensure every person receives the best healthcare possible every time they come into contact with health services.

**Declaration of conflicting interests:** none.

**References**

