

HAI prevention – it's everyone's business

Infection control awareness week, 20 – 24 October 2008

Reducing the risk of infection is high on the agenda for every healthcare worker, and staff at the NHS National Waiting Times Centre pride themselves on having a good track record in this area.

However, we are aware that with growing patient numbers and staff it will be a challenge to maintain our high standards, but we will not become complacent in the fight against these infections.

That is why this year's Infection Control Awareness Week is all about Healthcare Associated Infections. During the week, the Infection Control Team will be out and about reminding staff, patients and visitors that infection control really is everyone's business.

Reducing HAIs – why is it so important?

HAIs affect thousands of people every year and can often result in longer stays in hospital, more procedures and added costs for the NHS.

By simply ensuring that everyone entering the hospital is made aware of the importance of reducing HAIs, we can work together to help control the spread of infection.

HAIs need to be addressed by everyone – not just those working in the health care industry – but by patients and visitors.

Maggie McCowan, our Senior Manager for Infection Control, said: "HAI is top of everyone's agenda at the moment and the key message is that it is everyone's business."

"It is a lot of hard work to keep on top of this but it is important that we do."

HAI – our Code of Practice

The Code of Practice underpins all Infection Control Policies and Procedures. It also promotes the key message that Infection Control is everybody's responsibility.



What are we doing?

During this week our Infection Control Team will be promoting the theme of HAIs as well as all aspects of their work. They will also operate a stand in the main corridor from Monday to Thursday, with information on hand hygiene, including the five key moments and six steps.

You can go along and:

- test your hand hygiene with our glow box and agar plates;
- complete our quiz for a chance to win a prize;
- view Health Scotland's recent hand hygiene TV advert;
- view DVD aimed at primary-age children; and
- take away our range of Infection Control leaflets.

