



# Regulation 27 Infection Prevention & Control.

## Key inspection findings

# Introductions



Brid McGoldrick - National Operations Manager



Kathryn Hanly – Inspector of Social Services (Infection Prevention and Control)



Marguerite Kelly - Inspector of Social Services (Infection Prevention and Control)



Deirdre O'Hara - Inspector of Social Services (Infection Prevention and Control)



Sarah Armstrong – Regulatory Support Officer

# Role of the team

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- Assist the Chief inspector in assessing compliance with regulations and standards pertinent to infection prevention and control in social care services.
- Education and training of Inspectors of Social Services
- Deliver webinars for external stakeholders
- Offer support to stakeholders ([dcipcsupport@hiqa.ie](mailto:dcipcsupport@hiqa.ie))
- Involvement in National Guideline Development

# Human Rights Based Approach

## Core Values of human rights



HIQA Guidance on A Human Rights Based Approach in  
Health and Social Care Settings



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

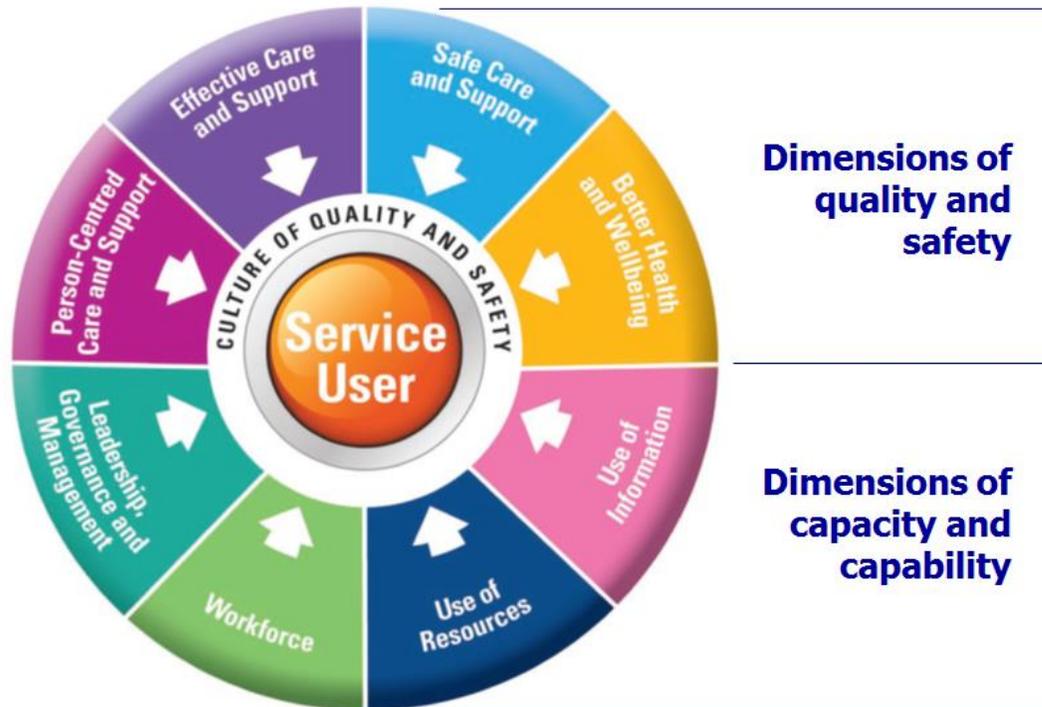
S.I. No. 415 of 2013

HEALTH ACT 2007 (CARE AND WELFARE OF RESIDENTS IN  
DESIGNATED CENTRES FOR OLDER PEOPLE) REGULATIONS 2013

## **Regulation 27 Infection Control states;**

The registered provider shall ensure that procedures, consistent with the standards for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections published by the Authority are implemented by staff.

# National Standards for infection prevention and control in community services



National Standards for  
infection prevention and  
control in community  
services

2018

# Purpose of the National Standards

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## The National Standards:

- offer a common language to describe safe and effective infection prevention and control practices
- enable a person-centred approach by focusing on the people that use services and placing people at the centre of everything that the service does
- create a basis for improving infection prevention and control practices and antimicrobial stewardship practices by identifying strengths and highlighting areas for improvement
- promote principles that can be used in day-to-day practice to encourage a consistent level of infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship across the country and across all community services
- promote practice that is up to date, effective and consistent.

# COVID-19 Nursing Home Expert Panel

## COVID-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel

Examination of Measures to 2021

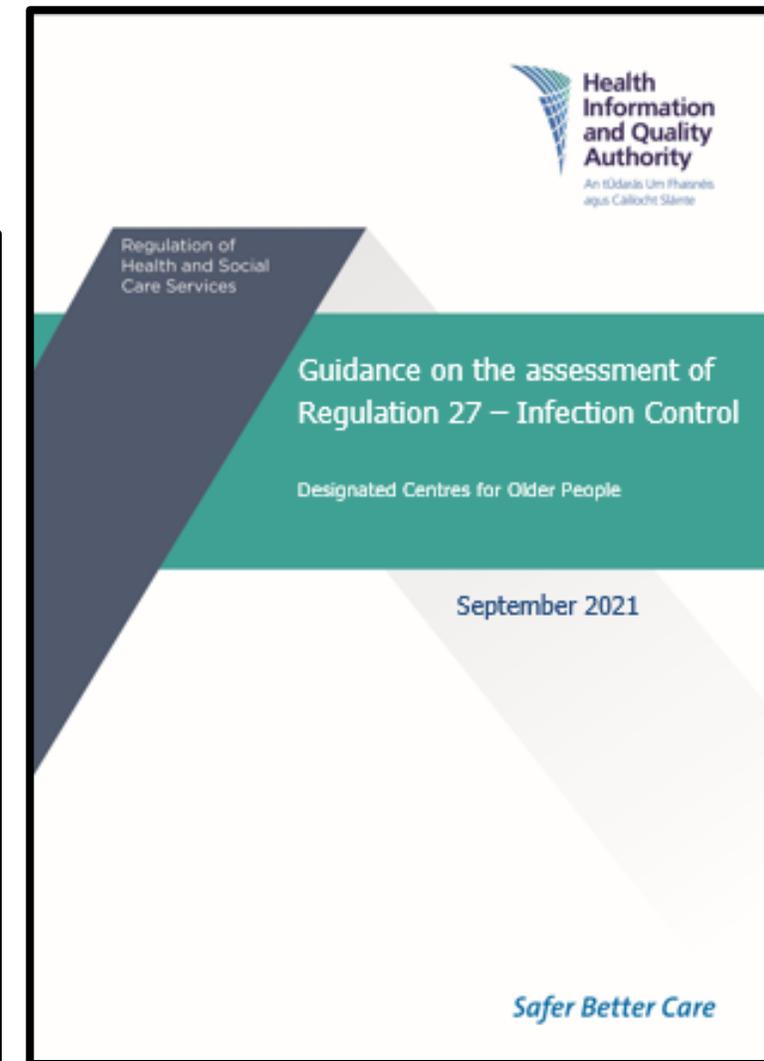
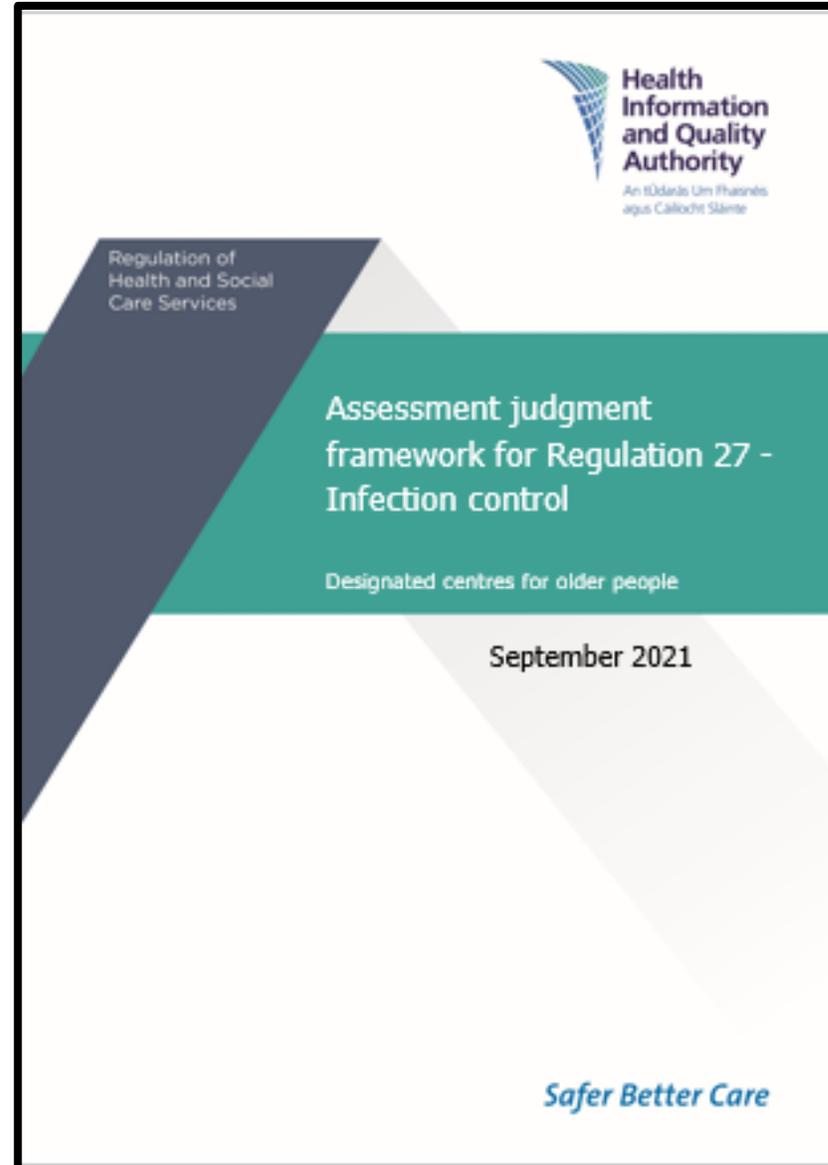
Report to the Minister for Health

### Recommendations included:

- The necessity to have strong informed nursing leadership on site in all nursing homes with a documented contingency plan for when leaders are absent. These plans should be incorporated into preparedness plans and they should be available for review by inspectors
- The panel recommended that the frequency of regulatory inspections should be increased
- PPE to be readily available and staff training with onsite supervision on every shift to ensure PPE is being used correctly. Training should be documented and records available for inspection by HIQA.
- HIQA and each nursing home provider should continue to highlight and promote independent advocacy services available to residents

# Regulation 27

Regulation 27 of Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations (Amended) requires that *the registered provider shall ensure that procedures, consistent with the standards for the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections published by HIQA are implemented by staff.*



# Regulation 27 Compliance rates - 2021

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**Compliant – 25.8%**

**Substantially compliant – 47.5%**

**Not compliant – 26.7%**

**WORLD  
HAND HYGIENE  
DAY**

**2022  
MAY 05**



# What meeting regulation 27 looks like in a service striving for quality improvement under Capacity and Capability

## Theme 5: Leadership, Governance and Management

- **Standard 5.1**
  - The service has clear governance arrangements in place to ensure the sustainable delivery of safe and effective infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship.
- **Standard 5.2**
  - There are clear management arrangements in place to ensure the delivery of safe and effective infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship within the service.

## Theme 6: Workforce

- **Standard 6.1**
  - Service providers plan, organise and manage their workforce to meet the services' infection prevention and control needs.
- **Standard 6.2**
  - Service providers ensure their workforce has the competencies, training and support to enable safe and effective infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship practices.

## 5.1 The service has clear governance arrangements in place to ensure the sustainable delivery of safe and effective infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship.





# Areas of Good Practice Found:

<p>Strengthened Governance</p>	<p>IPC Lead</p>	<p>Outbreak management</p>	<p>IPC Guidelines</p>



# 5.1 Areas Requiring Improvement

✓ **IPC Programme/ strategy**





# 5.1 Areas Requiring Improvement

HSE Infection Prevention and Control and Antimicrobial Resistance Learning Programme



- ✓ IPC Programme/ strategy
- ✓ **Antimicrobial Stewardship**

## HALT Survey 2020/ 2021 Key Recommendations

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>REVIEW PROPHYLAXIS <b>&gt;6</b> MONTHS</p> <p>Every person on UTI prophylaxis in excess of six months should be reviewed with a view to deprescribing.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>The practice of routine use of dipstick urinalysis for asymptomatic persons to support diagnosis of a urinary tract infection should cease.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Electronic access to relevant laboratory results on-site required to support timely decision-making for optimal use of antimicrobials.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>All staff should be aware of antibiotic guidelines at <a href="http://www.antibioticprescribing.ie">www.antibioticprescribing.ie</a>.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Pneumococcal vaccination status should be determined, and offered if necessary, to all persons ≥65 years.</p>
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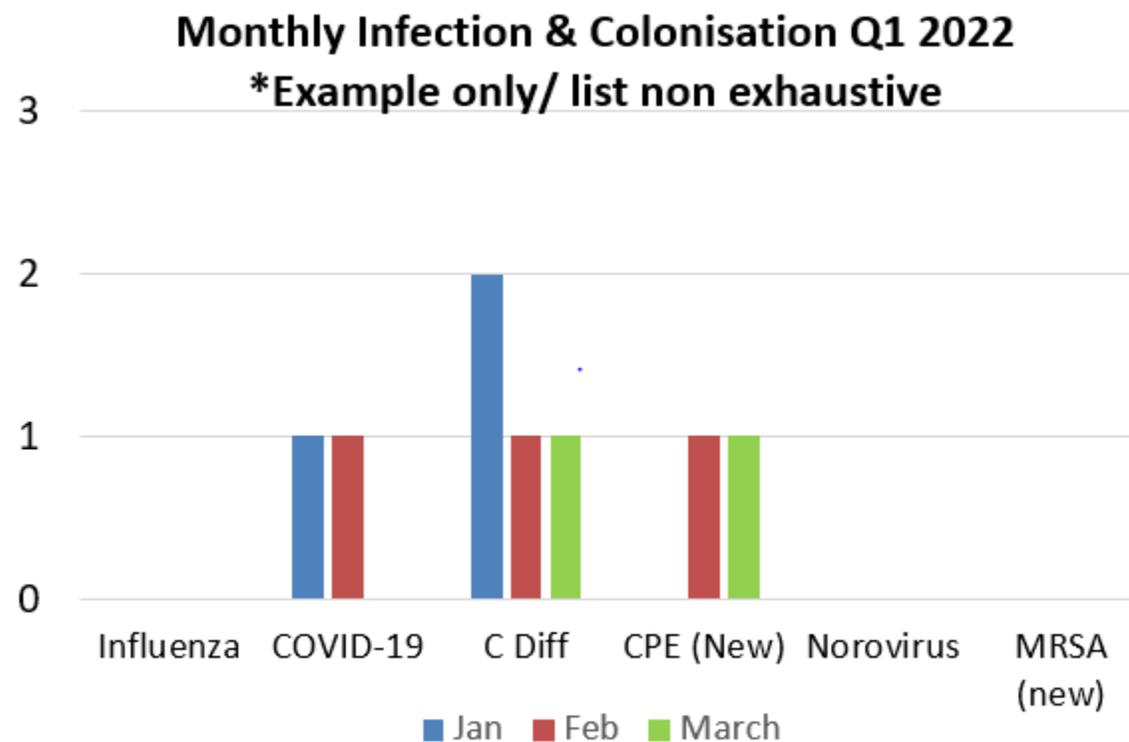
Toolkit for AMS in residential care facilities (RCFs)

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/gp/antibiotic-prescribing/prescribing-ltcf/>



## 5.1 Areas Requiring Improvement

- ✓ IPC Programme/ strategy
- ✓ Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes
- ✓ **IPC Surveillance**





## 5.1 Areas Requiring Improvement

- ✓ IPC Programme/ Strategy
- ✓ Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes
- ✓ IPC Surveillance
- ✓ **IPC Audit**



## 5.2 There are clear management arrangements in place to ensure the delivery of safe and effective infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship within the service

A person with appropriate knowledge and skills to manage key areas

Clear arrangements for IPC risk management:

Identification

Management

Control

Review of

Learning from

Access to up-to-date information:

New or revised guidelines

Safety alerts

National updates



# Areas of Good Practice Found:

**COVID-19 contingency plans**

**Public Health Links**

**Symptom monitoring**

**Outbreak reports**

**Promotion of vaccine uptake**



# Areas Requiring Improvement

## IPC Risk Assessment and Management

Visiting risk assessments

MDRO RA  
 Breaking the chain of infection

Building works and renovations RA

Equipment

IPC Documentation at transitions of care



## 6.1 Service providers plan, organise and manage their workforce to meet the services' infection prevention and control needs.





## Areas of Good Practice Found:



Contingency plans



IPC link practitioners



Deputising arrangements





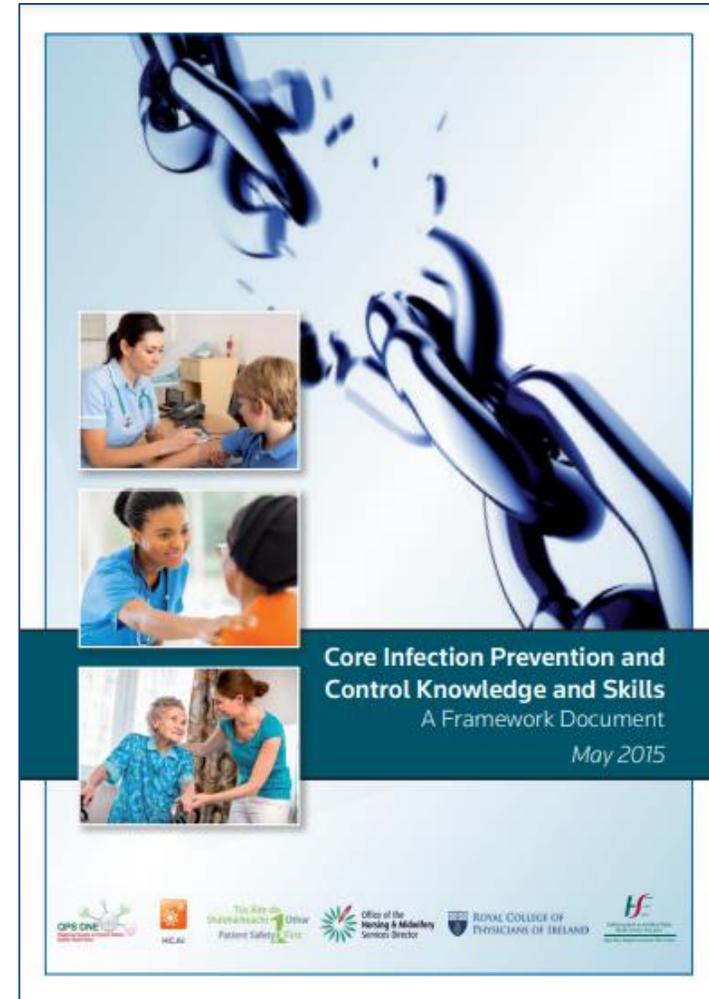
# Areas Requiring Improvement

 <p>Contingency plans don't escalate</p>	 <p>Infection Prevention &amp; Control Specialist</p>	 <p>Oversight &amp; supervision of cleaning practices</p>	 <p>Oversight of SP &amp; TBP</p>
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## 6.2 Service providers ensure their workforce has the competencies, training and support to enable safe and effective infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship practices.





# Areas of Good Practice Found



Mandatory in all centres

Link practitioner training and formal IPC education

Competency assessments

Online training



# Areas Requiring Improvement



Training strategy



Blended learning



Oversight



# What meeting regulation 27 looks like in a service striving for quality improvement under **Quality and Safety**

## Theme 1: Person- centred Care and Support

### Standard 1.1

People are provided with appropriate information and are involved in decisions about their care to prevent, control and manage healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.

## Theme 2: Effective Care and Support

### Standard 2.1

Infection prevention and control is part of the routine delivery of care to protect people from preventable healthcare-associated infections.

### Standard 2.2

Care is provided in a clean and safe environment that minimises the risk of transmitting a healthcare-associated infection.

### Standard 2.3

Equipment is decontaminated and maintained to minimise the risk of transmitting a healthcare-associated infection.

## Theme 3: Safe Care and Support

### Standard 3.4

Outbreaks of infection are identified, managed, controlled and documented in a timely and effective manner



# 1.1 People are provided with appropriate information and are involved in decisions about their care to prevent, control and manage healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance



# Areas of Good Practice Found



The infographic displays five areas of good practice found, each with a representative image and a corresponding text label below it:

- Isolation awareness:** Represented by a poster titled "Visitors" and "Contact Precautions in addition to Standard Precautions". The poster lists steps for "Before entering room" (Perform hand hygiene, Put on gown or apron, Put on gloves) and "On leaving room" (Dispose of gloves, Perform hand hygiene, Dispose of gown or apron, Perform hand hygiene). It also includes a section for "Standard Precautions" with a list of practices.
- Healthcare Services:** Represented by an illustration of a male nurse in green scrubs and a female doctor in a white lab coat, both holding tablets and looking at them.
- Vaccination:** Represented by an illustration of a COVID-19 vaccine vial with a syringe and a bandage, with the text "I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE!" and "COVID-19 VACCINE Injection only".
- IPC Audit reports:** Represented by a screenshot of a document titled "Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Audit for Dental". The document includes an "Introduction" and a "Purpose" section.
- Hand Hygiene:** Represented by an illustration of two healthcare workers in scrubs and masks, one is washing their hands at a sink with soap and water.

# Areas Requiring Improvement Found



Resident Info leaflets

Visiting access

IPC Prevention

IPC Audit boards

Care Plans

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/hcai/hcai-amr-information-for-patients-and-public/patient-leaflets/>



## 2.1 Infection prevention and control is part of the routine delivery of care to protect people from preventable healthcare-associated infections.

# Standard Precautions

### Always follow these standard precautions



- This standard looks at the implementation of standard and transmission based precautions in addition to IPC communication when transferring residents between settings.
- **Standard Precautions:**
  - Standard precautions include, appropriate to the setting, the following:
    - Hand Hygiene
    - use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
    - management of spillages of blood and bodily fluids
    - appropriate resident placement
    - management of sharps safe injection practices
    - respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
    - management of needle-stick injuries
    - management of waste
    - management of laundry
    - decontamination of reusable medical equipment and the environment

# Transmission Based Precautions

Transmission Based Precautions are additional precautions that are recommended when Standard Precautions alone may not be sufficient to prevent the transmission of certain infectious agents such as Clostridium difficile, influenza and COVID-19.



- Transmission-based precautions include droplet, contact and airborne precautions, or a combination of these precautions based on the route of transmission of infection.
- In assessing compliance inspectors will observe staff practice for example when and how they select PPE ,
- talk to staff to assess their understanding,
- review documentation including PPGs, training records, audits of compliance with core IPC practices,



# Areas of Good Practice Found

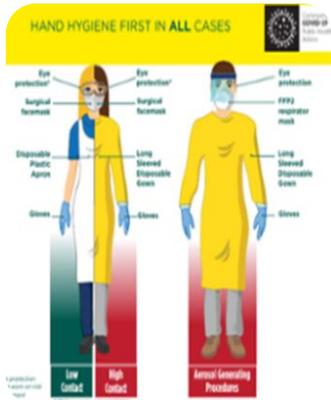


Hand Hygiene

Sharps

IPC Training in SP and TBP

# Areas Requiring Improvement found



Adherence to SBP  
AND TBP

Overuse of  
gloves

Hand washing  
sinks

IPC Documentation

Needle stick  
injury and blood  
spills

# Specification of clinical hand wash sinks

## Clinical hand wash sinks should conform to HBN 00-10 Part C Sanitary Assemblies



- Integral back outlet- The water should not flow directly into the drain.
- Washing under running water (therefore no plug)
- No overflow
- Wall-mounted single-lever-action or sensor tap (with single self-draining spout)
- TMV3-approved thermostatic mixing valve

**HSE (2020) Infection Control Guiding Principles for Buildings Acute Hospitals and Community Settings advises that** clinical hand wash sink - Page 14 “In long-term care facilities, there is generally no requirement for a clinical hand wash sink in every resident’s room.

- Hand hygiene can generally be supported by having a clinical hand wash sink within easy walking distance of each room together with appropriate access to alcohol-based hand rub.
- The resident’s hand wash sink in a room should not be considered as serving as a dual purpose resident/clinical hand wash sink.



## 2.2 Care is provided in a clean and safe environment that minimises the risk of transmitting a healthcare-associated infection.

An tOgairín um Mhalairt agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

The centre clean and well maintained

There are arrangements in place for cleaning and disinfecting especially in the event of an outbreak

Arrangement in place for:

- Laundry
- Waste disposal, including clinical waste
- Maintenance and refurbishment of the premises

Environmental and equipment hygiene audits

Learning outcomes from measurement data

Improvements in the quality and safety of care

# Areas of Good Practice Found



Cleaning and  
disinfecting



Formal  
cleaning  
training



Cleaning  
Audits and  
QIPs



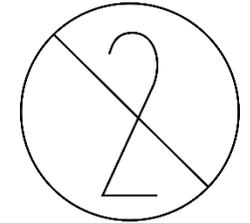
Maintenance  
Programs

# Areas Requiring Improvement found





## 2.3 Equipment is decontaminated and maintained to minimise the risk of transmitting a healthcare-associated infection.



### All equipment is:

- used in line with its stated purpose
- stored appropriately
- clean with appropriate decontamination
- used in line with manufacturer's instructions



Staff are trained to undertake decontaminated processes

# Areas of Good Practice Found



Designated  
equipment



Cleaning  
schedules



Equipment  
decontamination  
audits



Maintenance  
Programs

# Areas Requiring Improvement found



Equipment  
storage



Cleaning  
procedures



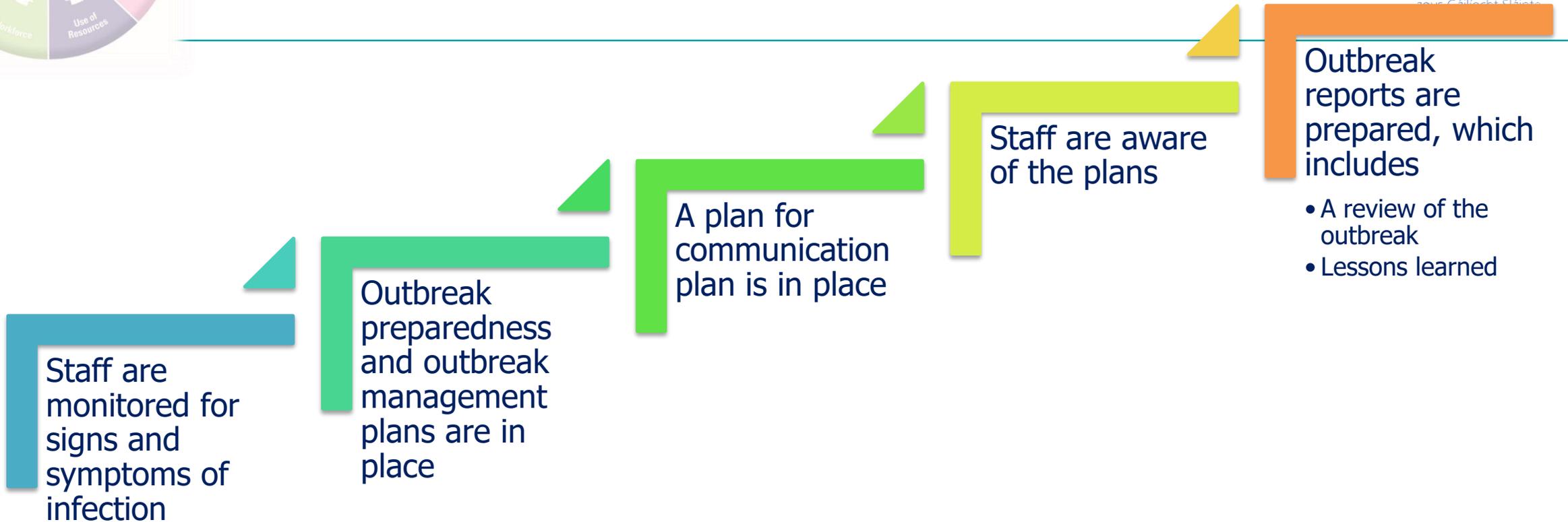
Alcohol Wipes



Cleaning and  
disinfecting



## 3.4 Outbreaks of infection are identified, managed, controlled and documented in a timely and effective manner.





# Areas of Good Practice Found



# Areas Requiring Improvement



Outbreak  
preparedness



Cleaning  
& disinfecting  
procedures



Waste  
Disposal



Oversight



Storage PPE

