Public Services Delivery
Scotland

NHS SCOTLAND

HAI Compendium Guidance and resources

16 November 2026

Antimicrobial Resistance & Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland
An NHS Scotland Assure Service

About the HAI Compendium

The HAI Compendium provides links to current national policy and guidance on healthcare associated infection (HAI), antimicrobial prescribing and resistance, decontamination, built environment and other related topics from relevant stakeholders and organisations. It is updated by ARHAI Scotland in response to policy and guidance updates, review or removal.

The Compendium includes links to the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) and Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual (CH IPCM) which are best practice guides for all health and care settings and includes:

- standard infection control precautions (SICPs)
- transmission based precautions (TBPs)
- HAI incidents, outbreaks and data exceedance
- infection control in the built environment and decontamination
- supporting materials such as literature reviews, tools and posters
- A-Z of pathogens containing guidance and information including transmission routes, description and infectivity

Access to NHS Education Scotland training course information can be found within the Compendium.

Disclaimer:

No responsibility will be taken for any omissions or the content of the Compendium.

Any questions regarding any of the guidance documents should be directed to the appropriate organisation.

Key to abbreviations used

Abbreviation	Organisation
ACDP	Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens
ARHAI Scotland	Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DH/DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
HFS	Health Facilities Scotland
HIS	Healthcare Improvement Scotland
HPA	Health Protection Agency
HPS	Health Protection Scotland
NES	NHS Education for Scotland
NHSSA	NHS Scotland Assure
NHSE	NHS England
NHSI	NHS Improvement
NICE	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
PHE	Public Health England
PHS	Public Health Scotland
SAPG	Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group
SEHD	Scottish Executive Health Department
SG/SGHD/SGHSCD	Scottish Government
SIGN	Scottish Intercollegiate Guidance Network
SUTIN	Scottish Urinary Tract Infection Network
UKAP	UK Advisory Panel for Healthcare Workers Living with Bloodborne Viruses.
UKAP-OHR	Occupational Health Monitoring Register of Healthcare Workers Living with Bloodborne Virus
UKGov	UK Government

Abbreviation	Organisation
UKHSA	UK Health and Security Agency
WHO	World Health Organization

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1 Infection prevention and control precautions

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
18 December 2025	Winter infection prevention and control (IPC) in healthcare settings 2025-2026	Provides information on the importance of IPC in healthcare settings during the Winter season and the existing guidance that supports this work,	SG
2 September 2025	Suspected acute respiratory infection in over 16s: assessment at first presentation and initial management	These recommendations cover all people aged 16 and over with symptoms and signs of an ARI who contact NHS services whether remotely or in person.	NICE
23 September 2024	Water, sanitation and hygiene and infection prevention and control measures for infectious diarrhoea in health-care settings: operational guide	This operational guide addresses water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food safety management, and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures that should be implemented in health-care settings to prevent and control transmission of infections causing infectious diarrhoea.	WHO
6 November 2018	Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Framework at the facility level	Toolkit and guidance to support national level assessment of the WHO Guidelines on Core Components of Infection Prevention and Control Programmes and is applicable to all countries.	WHO

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
1 November 2016	Guidelines on Core Components of Infection Prevention and Control Programmes	Guideline aims to support countries as they develop and execute their national antimicrobial resistance (AMR) action plans, among other aspects of health system strengthening. The guidelines cover eight areas of IPC and comprise 14 recommendations and best practice statements	WHO

1.1 Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs)

See NIPCM and CHIPCM website for best practice guide and supporting materials.

1.1.1 Safe management of linen

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
30 March 2026	National Guidance for Safe Management of Linen in NHS Scotland Health and Care Environments For laundry services and distribution V3	Provides guidance on the safe and consistent management of linen at all stages of the laundering process within NHS Scotland, from uplift of linen from the care area to completion of reprocessing, transport and storage.	ARHAI Scotland
29 November 2024	Washing clothes at home – information for people in hospitals or care homes and their relatives • Tri-fold print version • Digital version	Information leaflet for anyone who washes their friend's or relative's clothing at home. Alternative language versions are available.	ARHAI Scotland

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
14 August 2023	Linen processing within adult social care – information sheet	Information to be used by adult social care providers in England.	UKHSA
28 March 2023	Uniforms and workwear: guidance for NHS employers	General guidance on uniforms and workwear and addresses infection control requirements. Consideration is also given to the needs of faith groups.	NHSE
2018	National Uniform Policy, dress code and laundering policy. (DL(2018)04)	Confirms a change to the National Uniform Policy, following the introduction of a uniform for Clinical Nurse Managers of band 8A and above.	SG
21 December 2010	National Uniform Policy, Dress Code and Laundering Policy. (CEL(2010)42)	Updates and replaces CEL 53(2008), CEL36(2009), CEL46(2009) CEL comprises 3 sections: • National Uniform Policy • the dress code • the Laundering Policy	SG

1.1.2 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
2020	Memo on wearing of Fluid Resistant Type IIR Surgical Face masks, HPS	NHS Lanarkshire produced leaflet with pictures of Type IIR masks and how to wear them.	NHS Lanarkshire

1.1.3 Occupational safety: Prevention and exposure management (including sharps)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
31 March 2025	Bloodborne viruses in healthcare workers: managing and reducing risks	Managing occupational exposures to HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C in healthcare workers.	UKHSA
15 January 2025	Guidance for health clearance of healthcare workers (HCWs) and management of those infected with bloodborne viruses (BBVs) hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.	Updated in 2024 regarding mandatory reporting to the UKAP-OHR for occupational health teams given the approval to discontinue the UKAP-OHR. This update included advice on HCWs coming into the UK from abroad who are diagnosed with a BBV for the first time in the UK and notifying HCWs moving into the UK of a 3 month wait before clearance for EPP work for those living with HIV and a 4 week wait for those living with HBV.	UKHSA
24 January 2014	Practice of exposure-prone medical procedures by Healthcare Workers living with HIV or Hepatitis B. (CMO(2014)02)	Sets out various arrangements in relation to the practise of exposure-prone procedures by healthcare workers living with HIV or Hepatitis B, following changes to policy in Scotland and across the UK.	SG
2 May 2013	Health and safety (Sharp instruments in health) Regulations 2013 Regulations	Advises of the introduction of the Health and Safety (Sharp instruments in healthcare) Regulations 2013 which come into force on 11 May 2013.	SG

1.1.4 Safe disposal of waste (including sharps)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
9 December 2024	Scottish Health Technical Note (SHTN) 03-01 NHSScotland Waste Management Guidance	Assists all NHSScotland boards in meeting their waste management priorities by reflecting current legal, policy and procedural requirements and best practice.	NHSSA
1 March 2017	NHSScotland Waste Management Action Plan 2016-2020. (DL(2017)03)	The Action Plan identifies the requirements that NHS boards should already have in place.	SG
March 2012	Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012)	This Executive Note describes waste regulations in Scotland.	SG

1.2 Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs)

Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) may be insufficient to prevent cross-transmission of specific infectious agents. Therefore, additional precautions (TBPs) are required to be used by staff. SICPs must still be applied with these additional considerations. Includes guidance on droplet, contact and airborne precautions.

See NIPCM and CHIPCM for best practice guide and supporting materials.

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
15 October 2026	Health and care worker preferential access to FFP3 masks. DL(2026)11	This Directors' Letter sets out arrangements for health and care worker preferential access to FFP3 masks and asks health boards and social care employers to share it with their teams, so that staff are familiar with the DL and the National Infection Prevention and Control Guidance.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
10 August 2026	Updated transmission based precautions guidance in the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual and Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual taking effect from 3 August 2026. DL(2026)08	This Directors' Letter announces the publication of updated Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs) guidance within the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) and the Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual (CHIPCM), taking effect from 3 August 2026, and describes the key terminology changes, governance arrangements, and implementation support in place across NHS, primary care, and care home settings in Scotland.	SG

1.3 Built environment and decontamination

The healthcare built environment means the buildings and related infrastructure used for the provision of healthcare. This includes utilities such as water and ventilation and any fixed or semi-permanent components within the healthcare facility with which patients, visitors and staff will interact.

See NIPCM Chapter 4 for practice guide and supporting materials.

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
5 August 2024	Launch of the new 'water' section in chapter 4 of the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual. (DL(2024)17)	Chapter 4 is intended to support the prevention and management of infection related incidents and outbreaks associated with water systems in healthcare	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		premises.	
3 May 2013	Water sources and potential infection risk to patients in high risk units – a revised guidance. (CEL(2013)08)	Revised guidance was issued on SHTM 04-01, part A and B and Guidance for neonatal units (NNUs) (levels 1, 2, 3), adult and paediatric intensive care units (ICUs) in Scotland to minimise the risk of Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection from water.	SG

2 Outbreaks and Incidents

See Chapter 3 of the NIPCM website for best practice guide and supporting materials.

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
29 July 2026	Communicable disease outbreak management guidance	Information on principles for the identification and management of outbreaks and resources to support local health protection system response to outbreaks of communicable disease.	UKHSA
6 January 2026	Safety Action Notice (SAN2601). MDR preparedness: DL(2024)32 - national adverse incident reporting and safety alert systems	This safety action notice is an update of the obligations outlined in Directorate Letter DL(2024)32, 'Safety of Health, Social Care, Estates and Facilities Equipment: NHS Board and Local Authority Responsibilities', issued by Scottish Government on 16 December 2024.	NHSSA
19 December 2025	Infections due to contamination of products used in healthcare settings, HPR 19(12)	This report briefly summarises UKHSA's recent experience of investigating and responding to incidents involving contamination of products used in healthcare settings. It provides information and recommendations for healthcare professionals to reduce risk.	UKHSA
19 September 2025	International Health regulations (2005), as amended in 2014, 2022	Provides an overarching legal framework that defines States Parties' rights and	WHO

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	and 2024	obligations in managing public health risks, events and emergencies that have the potential to cross borders	
25 February 2025	A national framework for reviewing and learning from adverse events in NHS Scotland: February 2025 • Adverse events toolkit (April 2025)	This revised national framework is intended to provide an overarching approach developed from best practice to support healthcare providers effectively manage adverse events. This guidance may also be appropriate for use in social care and social work settings. The tools in this framework include: • a risk matrix • SAER template • a learning summary template • a quality assurance checklist for completing reviews	HIS
16 December 2024	Safety Of Health, Social Care, Estates and Facilities Equipment: NHS Board and Local Authority Responsibilities (DL(2024)32)	This Directors Letter describes key roles and responsibilities, remit of relevant organisations and documentation to support the safe management of Health and Social Care Estates and Faculties Equipment and Devices. It supersedes CEL 43 (2009) and its addendum.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
6 September 2022	Framework and toolkit for infection prevention and control in outbreak preparedness, readiness and response at the health care facility level.	This document provides guidance and tools for decision-makers responsible for the establishment and monitoring of health care facility-level IPC programmes. The framework provides a stepwise approach to IPC outbreak management, and the toolkit supports IPC improvements for outbreak management throughout the health system.	WHO
31 January 2020	Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI). Guidance for staff screening during healthcare associated infection incidents and outbreaks. (DL(2020)01)	Sets out approach to be taken by NHSScotland in ensuring effective staff screening processes in the event of an incident or outbreak of infection, and the management of staff who test positive or where treatment fails.	SG
14 July 2020	Management of Public Health Incidents: Guidance on the roles and responsibilities of NHS led incident management teams, Scottish Guidance No 12.1	Provides generic guidance for NHS boards in preparing for, and managing public health incidents in collaboration with partners, especially the local authorities.	PHS
June 2018	The National Support Framework	Sets out the roles and responsibilities of organisations in the event that a healthcare infection outbreak/incident, data exceedance or Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (HEI) report deems	HPS

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		additional support to an NHS Board is required. This framework supersedes CNO algorithm 2015.	

3 Decontamination

3.1 Environmental/patient care equipment

Guidance and literature reviews on decontamination of reusable medical devices and equipment can be found on the NSS website and National Infection Prevention control manual and should be referred to regarding equipment and environmental decontamination for SICPs and TBPs.

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
14 November 2025	Guidance for decontamination and testing of cardiac heater cooler units (HCUs), V1.2	Sets out the operational procedures covering decontamination of heater cooler units (HCU) used during cardiac surgeries, microbiological testing and associated actions based on water and air results.	ARHAI Scotland
30 July 2025	Scottish Health Facilities Note (SHFN) 01-02. NHSScotland National Cleaning Services Specification	To be used for all cleaning within NHSScotland facilities. This update allows NHS boards to risk assess specific tasks to determine the frequency of cleaning based upon the risk to the patient.	HFS
30 January 2025	Good infection prevention practice: using ultrasound gel	This document provides guidance on the safe use of ultrasound gel to reduce risk of transmission of infection arising from these products	UKHSA
24 September 2024	Hospital sinks and drains as a source of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms: studies to investigate colonisation, dispersal and decontamination final report	Final research report for hospital sinks and drains as a source of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms: studies to investigate colonisation, dispersal and decontamination.	NHSSA

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
1 April 2021	Scottish Health Facilities Note (SHFN) 01-01. National Facilities Monitoring Framework Manual.	Provides those involved in the audit process with a single source of information and guidance for any activity related to facilities monitoring.	HFS
1 April 2021	Scottish Health Facilities Note (SHFN) 01-04. National Average Cleaning Time (NACT) User Guide	Instructions on how to use the National Average time to clean tool.	HFS
2016	Decontamination of breast pump milk collection kits and related items at home and at hospital	Provides best practice guidance for decontamination of this equipment at home and in hospital. It has been compiled by a Joint Working Group of the Healthcare Infection Society and the Infection Prevention Society.	HIS
September 2015	SBAR: Blood Gas Analysers	Provides recommendations for clinical practice for NHSScotland.	HPS

3.2 Reusable medical devices

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
28 July 2026	Decontamination - Provision of compliant podiatry instruments. (GUID 2007)	GUID 5007 sets standards for safe podiatry instrument sterilisation, decontamination and management to prevent infection and ensure compliance.	NHSSA

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
15 September 2025	National Decontamination Guidance on Loan Medical Devices (Reusable): Roles and Responsibilities (SHTM 01-08)	Defines roles and responsibilities for theatres/clinics, Central Decontamination Units (CDUs) and manufacturers.	NHSSA
12 June 2025	NHSScotland Guide to the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations with respect to Used Medical Devices (SHTM 01-03)	This guidance has been produced to assist those involved with, or responsible for, the transportation of used medical devices to Central Decontamination Units (CDU), Endoscope Decontamination Units (EDU) and Local Decontamination Units (LDU). This guidance document is a full technical revision of GUID 5006 V1 'Guide to the carriage of dangerous goods' produced in 2013.	NHSSA
27 August 2024	Scottish Health Technical Note (SHTN) 00-04. Guidance on Safe Management of Medical Devices and Equipment in Scotland's Health and Social Care Services	Guidance to support safe and effective medical devices and equipment risk management practice in health and social care services.	NHSSA
30 April 2024	Scottish Health Technical Memorandum (SHTM) 01-05. Management, equipment, and process of the decontamination of dental instruments in a	Replaces relevant parts of SHTM 2010 relating to small steam sterilizers, SHTM 2030 for washer disinfectors (WD), other previous NHSScotland dental decontamination guidance and the Scottish	HFS/ NHSSA

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	Local Decontamination Unit (LDU) in NHSScotland	Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP) decontamination publications. Includes a series of log books to support decontamination equipment in a Local Decontamination Unit which were added in 2025.	
11 April 2024	Requirements for compliant endoscope decontamination units. (GUID 5013)	Specifies the technical requirements for compliant Endoscope Decontamination Units (EDUs).	HFS
27 February 2024	Decontamination – Requirements for compliant CDUs. (GUID 5014)	Sets the requirements to be implemented by Central Decontamination Units (CDUs) to improve patient safety, staff safety, to meet regulatory requirements and national policy/strategy. It is expected that all CDUs should comply with these requirements by December 2024.	HFS
17 May 2024	Medical devices regulations: compliance and enforcement	Information on MHRA's enforcement duties and how to report a non-compliant medical device.	MHRA
24 November 2023	Safety Action Notice (SAN 2306). Medical devices intended for use in a sterile state: review of systems and procedures	Raises awareness of the risks of unsterile implants and devices, and to provide guidance on suitable procurement, management and use procedures for to prevent unsterile devices inadvertently being used on patients.	NHSSA

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
1 July 2023	Off label use of a medical device	Guidance for using an off-label medical device.	MHRA
7 March 2023	NICE guidance IPG666: Reducing the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) from surgical instruments used for interventional procedures on high-risk tissues. (CMO(2023)02)	Letter confirms that the 2020 NICE IPG666 should be implemented by boards across Scotland.	SG
18 November 2022	Decontamination and reprocessing of medical devices for health-care facilities. Aide-memoire	This resource is intended to provide information on cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of reusable patient care and medical equipment. It does not describe endoscope reprocessing and is not applicable to cleaning and disinfection of the environment.	WHO
8 March 2022	Final rinse water quality for flexible endoscopy to minimize the risk of post-endoscopic infection	This evidence- and expert-based guidance document aims to improve patient safety and reduce risks of decontamination related HAIs by standardising the interpretation of endoscopy final rinse water results.	Healthcare Infection Society (HIS)
13 April 2021	Contamination status certificate	Form for recording and reporting contaminated or defective equipment or devices.	HFS
28 January 2021	Single-use Medical Devices: Implications and Consequences of	Guidance for healthcare professionals on using single-use medical devices.	MHRA

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	Reuse – DB 2006(04) v2.0 Single-use medical devices leaflet		
25 February 2021	Managing Medical Devices: Guidance for healthcare and social services organisations	Guidance for healthcare and social services organisations on managing medical devices in practice.	MHRA
1 June 2020	Scottish Health Technical Memorandum (SHTM)01-02. Management, Operation and Testing of Laboratory Sterilizers and Washer Disinfectors	Provides assistance in the compliance with other relevant guidance such as HSE 'Safe working and prevention of infection in clinical laboratories and similar facilities: 2003' and 'Biological agents: Managing the risks in laboratories and healthcare premises:2005'.	HFS
22 January 2020	Reducing the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt– Jakob disease (CJD) from surgical instruments used for interventional procedures on high-risk tissues	Evidence-based recommendations on reducing the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (CJD) from surgical instruments used for interventional procedures on high-risk tissues.	NICE
2020	Guidance on Decontamination of Equipment for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	The Report of a Working Party of the British Society of Gastroenterology Endoscopy Committee 2014. Reviewed 2017 and 2020.	BSG
4 November 2019	Compliant Dental Local Decontamination Units in Scotland Version 2. (GUID 5005)	Clarifies the national requirements for compliant reprocessing of dental devices in Local Decontamination Units (LDUs).	HFS

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
3 September 2018	Scottish Health Technical Memorandum (SHTM) 01-01 Decontamination of medical devices in a Central Decontamination Unit.	To be used for decontamination of medical devices in a CDU. Includes addendums GUID 5017 for service users and 5019 in relation to changes to NICE IPG 196.	HFS
1 January 2017	Guidance for Decontamination of Semi-Critical Ultrasound Probes	Sets out the operational procedures covering decontamination of Semi-critical probes using High Level Disinfection (HLD).	HPS
5 September 2016	Decontamination and reprocessing of medical devices for health-care facilities • Aide memoire (2022)	For information only	WHO
5 July 2016	Single-use medical devices	UK guidance on re-manufacturing of Single-use medical devices	MHRA
31 October 2014	Symbols used on medical devices: poster	Poster showing some of the different symbols used on medical devices.	MHRA
11 April 2014	Devices in practice: checklists for using medical devices	Checklists providing a practical guide to using medical devices.	MHRA
1 December 2014	Management of reusable surgical instruments during transportation, storage and after clinical use: (GUID 5010 Part A and B)	Provides awareness of the fragile nature of the sterile packs/trays and the used instruments/packs/trays and need to handle with care.	HFS

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
1 August 2013	Top 10 tips on endoscope decontamination	Guidance for healthcare professionals on effectively decontaminating endoscopes.	MHRA

4 Built Environment

Additional guidance including design guidance can be found in the NSS Health Facilities webpages.

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
2025	Water safety: Resources and animations	Resources to support the workforce in gaining knowledge and skills to prevent and control the potential risks posed by healthcare water systems and facilities and promote a culture of life-long learning, continuous improvement and improved patient safety. Includes: • Think sink, think splash, think safety! • Healthcare water and drainage systems	NES/ ARHAI Scotland
2025	IPC risks in the healthcare built environment: for construction and maintenance teams	Toolbox talk video presentation outlines best practice for infection prevention and control during the construction or refurbishment of healthcare facilities.	NES/ ARHAI Scotland
6 February 2023	NHSScotland Assure: Key Stage Assurance Reviews (KSAR) – commissioning and handover. (DL(2023)03)	Update on the use of the KSAR process.	SG
7 February 2022	Scottish Health Technical Memorandum (SHTM) 03-01. Ventilation for Healthcare Premises	Provides comprehensive advice and guidance on the legal requirements, design implications, maintenance and operation of specialised	HFS

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		ventilation in all types of healthcare premises.	
27 May 2021	NHSScotland Assure: Quality in the healthcare environment. (DL(2021)14)	Provides information on the new NHSScotland Assure service from 21 June 2021.	SG
6 November 2017	Scottish Health Planning Note (SHPN) 16-01: Mortuary and post-mortem facilities: Design and briefing guide	Aimed at the multiple public bodies involved in the operation, planning or use of mortuary and post-mortem facilities in Scotland.	HFS
6 March 2017	Health Building Note (HBN) 00-02. Core elements: Sanitary spaces	Provides evidence-based best practice guidance on the design and layout of sanitary spaces for use in healthcare settings.	HFS
3 August 2015	Scottish Health Technical Memorandum (SHTM) 04-01. Water safety for healthcare premises	Provides advice and guidance on the legal requirements, design applications, maintenance and operation of hot and cold water supply, storage and distribution systems in all types of healthcare premises.	HFS
6 July 2015	Scottish Health Technical Memorandum (SHTM) 04-02. Water safety for Emerging technologies.	Sets out the relevant facts with exemplars to inform decisions on whether or not to pursue the incorporation of emerging technologies into installations.	HFS
6 October 2014	Scottish Health Facilities Note (SHFN) 30. Infection Control in the Built Environment: Design and Planning –	Provides an insight to the key factors within the built environment which can impact on the prevention and control of infection and will also be	HFS

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	HAI SCRIBE	useful as a guide for best practice in existing healthcare facilities.	
6 October 2014	Health Building Note (HBN) 00-03. Core elements: Clinical and clinical support spaces	Evidence-based best practice guidance on the design and layout of generic clinical and clinical support spaces for use in healthcare settings	HFS
6 October 2014	Health Building Note (HBN) 23. Hospital accommodation for children and young people	Describes what form a comprehensive unit would take and identifies best practice in the built environment from a child-centred perspective. It is primarily intended for new-builds and upgrades of existing facilities.	HFS
6 October 2014	Health Building Note (HBN)15. Facilities for pathology services	Best practice advice on the planning and design of accommodation for NHS pathology services.	HFS
6 October 2014	Health Building Note (HBN) 00-01. Core elements: General design guidance for healthcare buildings	General design guidance for healthcare buildings.	HFS
3 May 2013	Water sources and potential infection risk to patients in high risk units – a revised guidance. (CEL(2013)08)	Advises that revised guidance was issued on SHTM 04-01 part A and B and Guidance for neonatal units (NNUs) (levels 1, 2, 3), adult and paediatric intensive care units (ICUs) in Scotland to minimise the risk of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection from water.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
November 2013	Addendum to CEL 43(2009). Safety of Health, Social Care, Estates and Facilities Equipment: NHS Board and Local Authority Responsibilities	Letter is an addendum to CEL 43(2009)	SG
20 July 2010	Provision of Single Room Accommodation and Bed Spacing. (CEL(2010)27)	Update on requirement for all new builds to have 100% single rooms and refurbishments to have minimum of 50% single rooms and reinforce refurbishments to work to bed spacing of not less than 3.6m (wide) x 3.7m (deep).	SG
4 October 2010	Scottish Health Planning Note (SHPN) 04-01. Adults in-patient facilities	Best practice guidance on the planning and design of in-patient facilities for adults.	HFS
30 October 2009	Safety of Health, Social Care, Estates and Facilities Equipment: NHS Board and Local Authority Responsibilities. (CEL(2009)43)	Builds on and strengthens existing arrangements and sets out responsibilities of Chief Executives for ensuring that procedures exist for the reporting of adverse incidents, the dissemination of safety advice and the control of risks relating to health, social care, estates and facilities equipment.	SG
11 November 2008	Provision of single room accommodation and bed spacing. (CEL(2008)48)	Sets out conclusions reached by Steering Group on single room provision and introduces updated guidance on the future provision of single room accommodation and bed spacing in new and	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		refurbished projects.	
2 June 2008	Scottish Health Planning Note (SHPN) 13. Decontamination Facilities	Provides information on the building and operating principles for CDUs, LSUs and Endoscope Decontamination Units and outlines the objectives and service requirements in terms of the provision and operation of the facility.	HFS
7 January 2002	Scottish Health Planning Note (SHPN) 52. Accommodation for day care	Guidance for design decisions on day care services which include day surgery, endoscopy, and medical investigation and treatment.	HFS

5 Care settings (including care homes)

Further guidance can be found in the Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual (CH IPCM) is intended to be used by all those involved in care home provision in Scotland.

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
26 August 2026	Understanding and managing infection in adult social care	This resource aims to promote a clear and consistent awareness and understanding of the legal and public health arrangements surrounding infectious diseases in in adult and social care settings for non-specialists. It aims to explain key health protection terms and concepts, improving understanding and confidence in interpreting information and supporting the consistent application of existing guidance on specific infectious hazards.	UKHSA
9 April 2026	Care Home IPC resource for respiratory illness	Provides care home staff with key IPC information to support the management of suspected and confirmed cases of respiratory illness of an infectious nature amongst residents	ARHAI Scotland
5 January 2026	Infection prevention and control for multidrug-resistant organisms in adult social care settings	Guidance for staff and managers working in adult social care settings providing information on the principles of multidrug-resistant organisms and how to prevent their spread.	UKHSA

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
2 December 2025	Guidance for the public health management of acute respiratory infections (ARI) in community, social and residential care settings	Provides health protection teams (HPT) with a clear, concise, and accessible overview of the public health approach to prevention and management of acute respiratory infections (ARI) in community, social and residential care settings.	PHS
31 October 2025	Care Home IPC resource for gastro-intestinal illness	Provides care home staff with key IPC information to support the management of suspected and confirmed residents with gastro-intestinal (GI) illness of an infectious nature.	ARHAI Scotland
29 November 2024	Clostridiodes difficile infection (CDI) - Information for people who are getting care, their visitors and anyone else who is in a healthcare setting • Tri-fold print version • Digital version	Provides information on CDI for people receiving healthcare and their visitors.	ARHAI Scotland
29 November 2024	Washing clothes at home – information for people in hospitals or care homes and their relatives • Tri-fold print version • Digital version	Information leaflet for anyone who washes their friend's or relative's clothing at home. Alternative language versions are available.	HPS

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
28 March 2024	Infection prevention and control in adult social care: acute respiratory infection	Sets out the measures that can help to reduce the spread of viral acute respiratory infections in adult social care settings in England.	UKHSA /DHSC
1 March 2024	Infection prevention and control in adult social care settings	Infection prevention and control (IPC) principles for adult social care settings in England, to be used with guidance on managing specific infections.	DHSC
29 June 2022	My Health, My Care, My Home - healthcare framework for adults living in care homes	Framework providing a series of recommendations that aims to transform the healthcare for people living in care homes.	SG
1 May 2021	Scottish Health Facilities Note (SHFN) 01-05. Safe Management of the Care Environment. Cleaning Specification for Care Homes	Provides a guide to planning cleaning services. It has tools to help with the planning and recording of cleaning activities.	HFS
23 October 2019	Animals in care settings: infection prevention and control guidelines	Provides actions required for any health or social care settings when considering bringing animals into the care setting.	HPS
July 2019	Healthcare associated infection (HAI) Information for the public	Information leaflet for the public giving guidance on healthcare associated infections (HAI) and what they can do to prevent them.	HPS
2016 and 2017	CPE advice leaflets for patients, healthcare workers and family members	Information leaflet provides advice for those receiving care and is part of the CPE toolkit.	HPS

6 Antimicrobial prescribing and resistance

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) - Guidance and Quality Improvement Tools	A range of guidance, quality improvement toolkits and other resources to support clinical teams and patients to ensure safe, effective and patient-centred care when using antimicrobials. These include: • Good Practice Recommendations • Quality Improvement Tools • Right Decision Service app – Antimicrobial Guidance	SAPG
3 September 2026	Engagement guide for infection and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)	A UK-wide collaborative guide giving engagement and communication approaches to raise awareness of AMR and promote behaviours that prevent infection and reduce resistance.	UKHSA
17 December 2025	Antimicrobial resistance: information - Factsheet	Information around the global issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and actions to prevent it.	SG
11 December 2025	Updates on indicators for antibiotic use. (DL(2025)27)	Provides an update on the antibiotic indicators issued in 2023 and extended to 2024, reviewed and replaced for primary and secondary care in Scotland to support the delivery of the UK NAP	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		targets.	
August 2025	Knowledge and skills framework on containing and controlling antimicrobial resistance Preventing infection and protecting antimicrobials	The purpose of this education framework is to support knowledge and skills in antimicrobial resistance and stewardship. Raising awareness for health and social care staff and students in Scotland, and the need for coordinated action.	NES, SAPG and Glasgow Caledonian University
27 March 2025	Further Update on Standards on Healthcare Associated Infections. (DL(2025)05)	Provides an update on the healthcare associated infection (HCAI) standards and antibiotic use indicators originally due to expire in 2022, were extended to 2024.	SG
29 November 2023	UK One Health Report: Joint report on antibiotic use, antibiotic sales and antibiotic resistance.	The third publication of the One Health Report brings together antibiotic resistance and consumption data from humans, animals, food, and the environment.	UKHSA
19 October 2023	People-centred approach to addressing antimicrobial resistance in human health: WHO core package of interventions to support national action plans	Outlines the concept and content of the WHO people-centred approach to addressing antimicrobial resistance in the human health sector.	WHO
28 February 2023	Further Update on Standards on Healthcare Associated Infections and Indicators on Antibiotic Use and changes to Hospital Onset COVID-19 Reporting. (DL(2023)06)	Update on UK AMR NAP Ambition 1B: Gram Negative bloodstream infections change of target to 25% by March 2024	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
23 December 2019	Mandatory HCAI and AMR Policy Requirements. (DL(2019)23)	Update to DL(2015)19. Includes the new 5-year AMR strategy and updated HCAI standards and indicators.	SG
24 January 2019	UK 20 year vision for antimicrobial resistance	It is supported by 5-year action plans • UK 5-year action plan for antimicrobial resistance 2019 to 2024. • Confronting antimicrobial resistance 2024 to 2029	UK Gov
3 April 2017	Antimicrobial Resistance: resource handbook	Collates national resources on antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention and control.	PHE
22 April 2016	Antimicrobial Stewardship quality standard	Covers the effective use of antimicrobials (antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal and antiparasitic medicines) to reduce the emergence of antimicrobial resistance.	NICE

7 Surveillance

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
19 September 2025	Sentinel Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) surveillance protocol for intensive care units (ICUs), high dependency units (HDUs) and paediatric intensive care units (PICUs), version 3	Describes a component of the sentinel Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) surveillance programme, for monitoring cases in intensive care, high-dependency or paediatric intensive care units (ICU/HDU/PICU) across Scottish Health Boards. It should be read in conjunction with the SARI sentinel surveillance protocol.	PHS
29 November 2024	Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infection in Intensive Care Units Protocol	Describes the methodologies for the national surveillance programme for surveillance of healthcare associated infection in intensive care units.	ARHAI Scotland
27 September 2024	Protocol for the Scottish Surveillance Programme for Clostridioides difficile infection: user manual	Describes the methodologies for the national mandatory surveillance for Clostridioides difficile Infection (CDI).	ARHAI Scotland
26 September 2024	Protocol for the Clostridioides difficile snapshot programme	Describes the methodologies for the national snapshot programme for Clostridioides difficile Infection (CDI).	ARHAI Scotland
17 April 2023	Community Acute Respiratory Infection (CARI) Surveillance. (CMO(2023)4)	Update on progress of the CARI surveillance scheme in Scotland, and request for ongoing input into this essential public health protection programme.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
17 November 2022	Community Acute Respiratory Infection (CARI) Surveillance. (CMO(2022)38)	Emphasises the importance of the national Community Acute Respiratory Infection (CARI) surveillance programme in managing the response to acute respiratory infection pressures this winter in Scotland	SG
22 September 2022	Scotland's National Respiratory Surveillance Plan	Describes the essential activities of a modern national respiratory surveillance function in Scotland and how national and local teams will collaborate to deliver an effective and efficient service.	PHS
16 January 2020	Protocol for national enhanced surveillance of bacteraemia	Covers surveillance of ECB, SAB, KSB and PAB.	ARHAI Scotland
31 May 2019	Surgical Site Infection Surveillance Protocol and Resource pack v7.1	Provides information, definitions and instructions for national surveillance of surgical site infection (SSI) in Scotland.	HPS
24 April 2013	MRSA Key Performance Indicators – April 2013. (CNO(2013)01)	Confirms the expectation that NHS Boards are to commence collecting MRSA KPI data with effect from 1 April 2013.	SG
8 April 2009	Revised framework for National Surveillance of HAI and the introduction of Healthcare associated infection and the introduction of a new health efficiency and access to treatment (HEAT)	Confirms the terms of the HEAT target for CDAD, the terms of the extension of mandatory surveillance of CDAD. Also deals with changes to surveillance of Caesarean sections.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	target for Clostridium difficile associated disease (CDAD) for NHSScotland. (CEL(2009)11)		

8 Sepsis

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	The UK Sepsis Trust • Clinical Tools • Educational materials		UK Sepsis Trust
19 November 2025	Suspected sepsis in people aged 16 or over: recognition, assessment and early management	This guideline covers the recognition, diagnosis and early management of suspected sepsis in people aged 16 or over who are not and have not recently been pregnant.	NICE
19 November 2025	Suspected sepsis in under 16s: recognition, diagnosis and early management	This guideline covers the recognition, diagnosis and early management of suspected sepsis in under 16s who are not pregnant and have not recently been pregnant.	NICE
19 November 2025	Suspected sepsis in pregnant or recently pregnant people: recognition, diagnosis and early management	Summary: This guideline covers the recognition, diagnosis and early management of suspected sepsis in pregnant or recently pregnant people.	NICE

9 Quality improvement

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	ARHAI Scotland Quality improvement tools	Tools and literature reviews are available for a range of clinical procedures and settings. • Central Vascular Catheters (CVCs) • Peripheral Vascular Catheters (PVCs) • Surgical Site Infection (SSI) • Blood culture • Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP)	ARHAI Scotland
2 September 2013	Next steps for acute adult safety – patient safety essentials and safety priorities. (CEL(2013)19)	Sets out 10 patient safety essentials to be implemented everywhere in NHSScotland. Includes hand hygiene, VAP bundle, CVC insertion bundle and CVC Maintenance Bundle.	SG

9.1 Urinary Tract Infection/Catheter Associated (CAUTI)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	SAPG Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) guidance and tools	UTI guidance to support primary care teams in managing acute and recurrent urinary tract infections.	SAPG
5 December 2025	Catheter Care: RCN Guidance for Health Care Professionals	A resource and framework for practice for any health care professional required to undertake urinary	RCN

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		catheterisation as part of their role (registered or unregistered practitioner working under the guidance/supervision of someone on a professional register).	
12 December 2024	Urinary tract infection (recurrent). Antimicrobial prescribing	Sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for preventing recurrent urinary tract infections in children, young people and adults who do not have a catheter.	NICE
15 February 2023	UTI in adults: Quality Standard	Covers diagnosing and managing urinary tract infections in adults aged 16 and over.	NICE
27 July 2022	Urinary tract infection in under 16s: diagnosis and management NICE guideline [NG224]	Covers diagnosing and managing first or recurrent upper or lower urinary tract infection (UTI) in babies, children and young people under 16.	NICE
27 July 2022	UTI in Children and young people: Quality Standard	Covers diagnosing and managing urinary tract infection in infants, children and young people (under 16).	NICE
September 2020	SIGN 160 Management of Suspected Bacterial Lower Urinary Tract Infection in Adults Woman	Provides recommendations based on current evidence for best practice in the management of adult woman with suspected urinary tract infection.	SIGN
23 November 2018	Urinary tract infection (catheter associated): antimicrobial prescribing	Sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for catheter-associated urinary tract infection in children,	NICE

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		young people and adults.	
31 October 2018	Urinary Tract – lower. Antimicrobial prescribing	Sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for lower urinary tract infection (also called cystitis) in children, young people and adults who do not have a catheter.	NICE
2018	National Hydration Campaign Materials	The Scottish Urinary Tract Infection Network (SUTIN) launched a National Hydration Campaign in April 2018 which aims to convey the public health benefits of good hydration in terms of UTI prevention.	HPS/ SUTIN
18 September 2013	UTI in men: Quality Standard	Covers the diagnosis and management of lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) in men (18 years and older).	NICE

9.2 Surgical Site Infection (SSI)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
19 August 2020	Surgical Site infection: prevention and treatment. NG 125	Covers preventing and treating surgical site infections in adults, young people and children who are having a surgical procedure involving a cut through the skin.	NICE

9.3 PVC/CVC

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
12 May 2024	Guidelines for the prevention of bloodstream infections and other infections associated with the use of intravascular catheters: part I: peripheral catheters	This guideline provides guidance on best practices for the prevention of BSIs and other infections associated with peripherally-inserted IV catheters.	WHO
28 May 2026	Guidelines for the prevention of bloodstream infections and other infections associated with the use of intravascular catheters: part 2: central venous catheters	This guideline provides evidence-based recommendations for the prevention of bloodstream infections (BSIs) and other infections associated with the use of central venous catheters (CVCs) across health care settings.	WHO

10 Setting specific guidance

The NIPCM applies in all NHS Scotland settings and is best practice in other care settings.

The Care Home IPCM is intended to be used by all those involved in care home provision in Scotland.

10.1 Cataract surgery

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
2023	The National Centre for Sustainable Delivery • Cataract surgery including high flow care pathways infection prevention and control principles • Rapid Review of the Literature v1: Post-cataract surgery endophthalmitis	This group brought together key Infection Prevention Control (IPC) stakeholders across Scotland to develop a nationally approved evidence-based set of principles aimed at reducing variation and mitigating against any perceived IPC risks whilst providing a means of monitoring through national data sets.	NHS CFSD

10.2 Childcare settings

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
7 September 2026	Public health exclusion periods in children and young people's settings	Guidance for staff in early years and education settings (including nurseries, childminders, preschools and schools) on when and for how long an individual or group should stay away from the setting, and when to contact your local health protection team.	UKHSA

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
27 August 2026	Health protection in children and young people settings, including education	This guidance is a practical guide for all staff or volunteers working in settings for children and young people in Scotland. It is adapted from UKHSA 'Health protection in children and young people settings, including education'.	PHS
27 August 2026	Health protection for early years childcare settings	This is a practical guide for all staff or volunteers working in early years childcare settings in Scotland. It aims to help you to prevent and respond to infectious diseases in these settings.	PHS
27 August 2026	Health protection in schools	This is a practical guide for all staff or volunteers working in schools in Scotland to help prevent and respond to infectious diseases in these settings.	PHS

10.3 Dentistry

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
June 2026	Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme, Practice Support Manual: Health and Safety – Infection Control	Provides information about infection prevention and control in a dental practice, covering areas such as health clearance and immunisation, hand hygiene, occupational exposure management and decontamination.	NES

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
4 November 2019	Compliant Dental Local Decontamination Units in Scotland Version 2. (GUID 5005)	Clarifies the national requirements for compliant reprocessing of dental devices in Local Decontamination Units (LDUs)	HFS
6 April 2017	Dental Instrument Storage Advice Statement	Review looking at whether enclosure in lidded trays, suitable bags or containers (compared with immediate use or loose storage) sufficient to protect dental instruments from microbial recontamination.	HIS
30 March 2016	General dentistry: exposure prone procedure categorisation	Exposure prone procedures (EPPs) and non EPPs carried out in general dentistry, categorised by levels of risk of bleed-back, compiled by UKAP	PHE
19 April 2007	Important Advice for Dentists on Re-use of Endodontic Instruments and Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD). (CMO(2007)5)	Clarifies the situation with regard to decontamination and re-use of instruments, especially those used in endodontic treatment, in the light of new research on risks of vCJD transmission via dental treatment.	SEHD

10.4 Neonatal settings

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
13 May 2026	Neonatal infection: antibiotics for prevention and treatment	This guideline covers preventing bacteria infections healthy babies of up to and including 28 days corrected gestational age, treating	NICE

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		pregnant women and pregnant trans men and non-binary people whose unborn baby is at risk of infection, and caring for babies of up to and including 28 days corrected gestational age with a suspected or confirmed bacterial infection. It aims to reduce delays in recognising and treating infection and prevent unnecessary use of antibiotics.	
2 June 2025	Infection prevention and control: incubators on neonatal units	Statement reinforcing good infection prevention and control practices for incubator decontamination and handling on neonatal units.	UKHSA
23 January 2024	Neonatal infection Quality Standard	Covers the use of antibiotics to prevent and treat infection in newborn babies (both term and preterm) from birth to 28 days in primary (including community) and secondary care.	NICE
May 2018	Healthcare infection in neonatal units – information for parents and guardians	Leaflet for parents and guardians of babies in neonatal units explaining additional precautions to be taken in a neonatal unit.	HPS

10.5 Prison Service

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
27 March 2026	Preventing and managing bacterial wound infections in prisons	Guidance on managing and preventing the spread of group A streptococcal (GAS) infection and other skin and soft tissue infections in prisons and secure settings.	PHE
31 October 2011	Prisoner Healthcare (PCA(M) (2011)15)	Letter regarding responsibility for the provision of healthcare services to prisoners transferring from the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to Health Boards on 1 November 2011.	SG

Education and Training

10.6 NHS Education for Scotland

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) team is responsible for providing educational resources to support health and social care staff and students working in acute, primary care, community, care home/residential housing and care at home services across Scotland. These resources are across antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated Infections with a multi-disciplinary focus and strong alignment with patient safety, clinical skills, quality improvement and health protection. This includes the Scottish IPC Education Pathway (SIPCEP). Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Learning materials for professionals are available on TURAS learn.

10.7 e-BUG



e-Bug is a European wide free educational resource for classroom and home use and makes learning about micro-organisms, the spread, prevention and treatment of infection fun and accessible for all students.

The website has information for teachers and Junior and Senior Students including revision quizzes and games. It can be accessed at www.e-bug.eu

11 HAI Standards, strategy, management and risk

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
23 March 2026	Seasonal influenza (Flu) immunisation programme 2026/27: Confirmation of adult and child cohorts	Provides key objectives and eligibility for the immunisation programme.	SGHD/ CMO
21 November 2024	Publication of new deliverables for the second phase of the 'Healthcare Associated Infection Strategy 2023-2025'	Provides information on the new deliverables developed for the second phase in addition to some deliverables rolling over from the first phase.	SG
24 October 2024	ARHAI (Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections) Scotland and Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Related Incidents, Outbreaks and Data Exceedance: Reporting and Communication Requirements. (DL(2024)24)	Communicates information reiterating expectations on HCAI reporting as per the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) and how colleagues work with our national infection prevention and control (IPC) experts, ARHAI Scotland.	SG
24 September 2024	Health and social care: winter preparedness plan 2024 to 2025	Represents a whole system approach to addressing a surge in demand for health, social care and social work services. It sets out actions to help relieve pressure points across the system, applicable throughout the year when we may face increased pressures.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
02 May 2024	NHSScotland infection prevention and control (IPC) roles and responsibilities, including IPC team (IPCT) and specialist IPC role descriptors. (DL(2024)11)	Replaces the previous HDL(2005)8 and outlines the main responsibilities for Boards in relation to the infection prevention and control (IPC) service and introduces the team and specialist IPC role descriptors.	SG
30 November 2023	Preparing for Emergencies Guidance	This guidance provides advice, considerations, and support from a strategic lens for health boards to effectively prepare for emergencies in compliance with relevant legislation.	SG
19 June 2023	Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) strategy 2023 to 2025	Sets out the approach to supporting NHSScotland to reduce HCAIs, as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.	SG
19 June 2023	Publication of the 'Healthcare Associated Infection Strategy 2023- 2025'. (DL(2023)17)	Advises of the publication of the HAI strategy 2023-2025	SG
28 February 2023	Further Update on Standards on Healthcare Associated Infections and Indicators on Antibiotic Use and changes to Hospital Onset COVID-19 Reporting. (DL(2023)06)	Provides information that the HCAI targets will be further extended by one year to 2024. This was to allow for further consideration on whether the infections currently measured are still relevant for targeted surveillance.	SG
15 December 2022	Publication of 'The Infection Prevention Workforce Strategic Plan 2022-2024'	Recommendations on the creation of an appropriately skilled and sustainable workforce alongside a nationally integrated IPC eSurveillance system.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
2 September 2022	Quality Assurance System and Framework	Sets out what good care looks like, emphasising the importance of leadership and culture, vision and purpose, and the importance of co-designing services with people.	HIS
16 May 2022	Healthcare Improvement Scotland Infection Prevention and Control Standards	To be adhered to across all health and adult social care settings including NHSScotland settings, independent healthcare and adult social care including care homes. Supersede HIS' healthcare associated infections (HAIs) standards published in 2015.	HIS
16 May 2022	Publication of Healthcare Improvement Scotland Infection Prevention and Control Standards. (DL(2022)14)	Update on the issue on 16 May of a new single set of standards for use across health and adult social care.	SG
11 May 2022	Further Updates for Healthcare Professionals - Affecting staff testing, and amendments to guidance. (DL(2022)13)	Updates regarding COVID-19 testing, moving to Respiratory Addendum, Standards on Healthcare Associated Infections and Indicators on Antibiotic Use and SSI surveillance.	SG
14 July 2020	Management of Public Health Incidents: Guidance on the roles and responsibilities of NHS led incident management teams, Scottish Guidance	Provides generic guidance for the NHS in preparing for and managing public health incidents.	PHS
23 December 2019	Mandatory HCAI and AMR Policy Requirements. (DL(2019)23)	Update to DL(2015)19. Includes the new 5-year AMR strategy and updated HCAI standards and indicators. Reference to the	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		built environment and requirements for adoption of HAI-SCRIBE and compliance with relevant SHTMs.	
18 October 2011	Accurate recording of deaths from Healthcare Associated Infection and Action. (CMO(2011)13)	Supplementary guidance clarifying the process for deaths from Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI). Ensure consistent and reliable systems to identify as a minimum *C. difficile* and MRSA associated deaths.	SG
24 November 2008	The Risk Management of HAI: A Methodology for NHSScotland	Guidance to boards on setting priorities for targeting measures to reduce the risk of HAI using risk-based methodology.	SG
27 June 2001	Carey Report Managing the Risk of Healthcare Associated Infection in NHSScotland. (HDL(2001)53)	Recommended that NHSScotland adopt a standard approach to risk management in relation to healthcare associated infection and set out draft standards for infection control, cleaning services and decontamination.	SEHD

12 Organism Specific

Guidance and supporting materials on specific disease/pathogen can be found in the NIPCM A-Z pathogens.

12.1 Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
14 March 2017	Carbapenemase producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) Policy Requirements. (DL(2017)02)	Reinforces the mandatory policy requirement for CPE Screening in NHS boards across Scotland.	SG
2 December 2016	CPE Screening samples in hospitals Advice statement	Provides evidence on the accuracy, turnaround time and cost/cost effectiveness of tests to identify carbapenemase producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) in hospital screening samples obtained from patients identified as at risk of CPE colonisation during clinical risk assessment	HIS

12.2 Clostridioides difficile infection

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
21 December 2012	Clostridium difficile	CNO letter reminding that C.difficile as with all HAI remains a national priority and giving guidance for clinical staff and laboratory staff.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
19 November 2010	Antimicrobial Resistance. (CMO(2010)24)	Outlines the increasing threat of antibiotic resistance in bacteria (particularly Gram negative bacteria and carbapenemase-producing enterobacteriaceae).	SG

12.3 COVID-19

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
1 May 2025	COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19	This guideline covers the management of COVID-19 for children, young people and adults in all care settings.	NICE
24 June 2024	Updated CMO(2023)12. Updated advice on COVID-19 testing guidance	Updated information including removal of the advice to self-isolate for five days following a positive COVID-19 test.	SG
21 May 2024	Advance notice of changes to the Scottish Government's COVID-19 testing guidance. (CMO(2024)06)	Information on changes to Scottish Government's COVID-19 testing guidance. This guidance affects health and social care settings.	SG
21 November 2023	Respiratory infections including Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer workplaces and public settings	Guidance for businesses and workplaces (including transport operators) on reducing the risk of respiratory infections including COVID-19 and supporting staff and customers.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
10 November 2023	Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for people on the Highest Risk List	Advice to help people on the Highest Risk List make informed decisions and access support services.	SG
22 September 2023	Respiratory infections including Coronavirus (COVID-19): staying safe and protecting others	How to keep ourselves and each other safe from respiratory infections including coronavirus (COVID-19).	SG
12 September 2023	Respiratory infections including Coronavirus (COVID-19): ventilation in the workplace	Guidance for employers on improving ventilation and the supply of fresh air into the workplace.	SG
2 August 2023	Coronavirus (COVID-19): adult care homes visiting guidance	Guidance on visiting during the pandemic and tools and resources on visiting and supporting residents in homes with COVID-19.	SG
11 May 2023	Withdrawal of the coronavirus (COVID-19): extended use of face masks and face coverings guidance across health and social care. (CDO(2023)02)	Details the withdrawal of extended use of face masks guidance on 16 May 2023 for dentistry.	SG
9 May 2023	Coronavirus (COVID-19) face masks and face coverings guidance withdrawal: letter	Letter issued to the social care sector regarding the withdrawal of the 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): Extended use of face masks and face coverings guidance' across health and social care.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
9 May 2023	Withdrawal of the coronavirus (COVID-19): extended use of facemasks and face coverings guidance across health and social care and the unpausing of ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) and bacteraemia surveillance. (DL(2023)11)	Information on the change to the extended use of face masks and face coverings guidance in healthcare and social care settings. This letter also includes detail of the unpausing of ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) and bacteriaemia surveillance.	SG
28 February 2023	Further Update on Standards on Healthcare Associated Infections and Indicators on Antibiotic Use and changes to Hospital Onset COVID-19 Reporting. (DL(2023)06)	Provides information on the change to COVID-19 reporting from 1 March 2023.	SG
16 January 2023	Extant Guidance on infection prevention and control, face mask and face covering use and patient testing for COVID-19 infection. (DL(2023)01)	Provides summary of the current guidance regarding IPC, face coverings and patient testing for COVID-19.	SG
14 September 2022	Advance Notice of a Pause of Asymptomatic Staff Testing in Health and Social Care and Asymptomatic Testing in Hospitals to be in place by the end of September 2022.	Details of the pause in asymptomatic staff testing to be in place by end of September 2022.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	(DL(2022)32)		
22 August 2022	Updates to COVID-19 asymptomatic testing guidance for patient testing; adult care home staff testing; extended use of face mask guidance and launch of COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination Autumn/Winter 2022. (DL(2022)29)	Updated guidance for asymptomatic testing of hospital patients, asymptomatic testing of staff in care homes and extended use of face masks.	SG
24 June 2022	Removal of temporary COVID Policies. (DL(2022)21)	Confirms that the majority of temporary COVID related polices will end on 30 June 2022. Annex A provides a full list of the relevant provisions, for reference.	SG
11 May 2022	Further Updates for Healthcare Professionals - affecting staff testing, and amendments to guidance. (DL(2022)13)	Consider what the next stages regarding COVID-19 management within health and care settings look like as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic towards an endemic state.	SG
10 May 2022	Coronavirus (COVID-19): distance aware scheme	The Distance Aware scheme is designed to help those worried about mixing with others as we adapt to living with COVID-19. Find out how to get a Distance Aware badge or lanyard to show others you need more space.	SG
25 April 2022	Update on highest risk list. (CMO(2022)18)	Changes and evidence for the highest risk list.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
19 April 2022	Health and social care worker access to FFP3 masks, based on staff preference during the transition period. (DL(2022)10)	The process line managers and staff should follow when requesting access to FFP3 (respirator) masks in place of Type IIR (surgical) masks, based on personal preference.	SG
31 March 2022	De-escalation of COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in Health and Social Care settings to alleviate system pressures. (DL(2022)07)	Provides key changes to be made as part of the de-escalation process	SG
22 February 2022	Healthcare Workers to revert back to twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing. (DL(2022)05)	This letter follows on from DL(2021)51 and asks healthcare workers (HCW) and patient facing primary care staff (general practice, pharmacy, optometry, dentistry) to reduce their frequency of LFD testing from daily back to twice weekly.	SG
10 February 2022	Managing the long-term effects of COVID-19: Updated clinical guideline and implementation support note	Advises that SIGN/SG have updated their decision note that goes along with the NICE guidance 'Managing the long-term effects of COVID-19'. Provides links to relevant resources.	SG
24 January 2022	Update on self-isolation for health and social care staff. (DL(2022)01)	Updated Policy Framework to the self- isolation guidance for Health and Social Care Staff, as a result of changes to the COVID-19 self- isolation guidance for the general population.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
24 December 2021	Update on self-isolation exemption for health and social care staff. (DL(2021)50)	Updated Policy Framework on the self-isolation exemption for health and social care staff that contains some substantive changes	SG
17 December 2021	Healthcare Workers to increase Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing frequency from twice weekly to daily. (DL(2021)51)	Update on a change to the asymptomatic Healthcare Worker (HCW) LFD testing policy from twice weekly to daily testing	SG
25 November 2021	Launch of the Scottish Winter 2021/22 Respiratory Infections in Health and Care settings - Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Addendum. (DL(2021)46)	Notifies all staff and managers about the launch of the Scottish Winter 2021/22 Respiratory Infections in Health and Care settings - Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Addendum which supersedes the COVID-19 addenda across all settings.	SG
22 November 2021	Revised guidance for pregnant employees. (DL(2021)43)	Summary of updates made to the DHSC COVID-19 guidance for pregnant employees.	SG
05 November 2021	Quarantine (self-isolation) for NHSScotland staff returning to the UK. (DL(2021)36)	This guidance updates the information provided in DL(2020)20 and DL(2021)13 and should be read in conjunction with the latest Scottish Government advice, Coronavirus (COVID-19): international travel and managed isolation (quarantine).	SG
31 August 2021	Update to the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual COVID-19	Updated information on physical distancing.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	addenda on physical distancing in Health and Social Care. (DL(2021)28)		

12.4 Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD, vCJD)

Guidance for TSEs including CJD can be found in the A-Z pathogens

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
22 January 2020	Reducing the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (CJD) from surgical instruments used for interventional procedures on high-risk tissues (IPG 666)	Evidence-based recommendations on reducing the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (CJD) from surgical instruments used for interventional procedures on high-risk tissues.	NICE
March 2019	Paediatric Components Working Group – Report. Importation of plasma and use of apheresis platelets as risk reduction measures for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	Report from a working group set up to advise whether the risk reduction measures should be maintained, withdrawn for some individuals, or withdrawn altogether.	PHE/ SABTO
17 July 2018	UK Infected Blood Inquiry – retention of records. (DL(2018)14)	Letter issued around the retention of records that may be relevant to the UK Infected Blood Inquiry and charging for copies of medical records.	SG
13 February 2015	Adenotonsillar surgical procedures: revision of advice on single use vs reusable instruments.	Letter gives new advice on the use of single use instruments used for routine tonsillectomy for adults and	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
	(CMO(2015)02)	children.	
3 December 2008	Changes to the ACDP Guidance on TSE Agents: Safe working and the prevention of infection and refurbishment of endoscopes potentially contaminated with CJD agent. (CMO(2008)11)	Advises and informs infection control teams, clinical governance and risk management committees of the local policy and procedures to be put in place for all patients about to undergo any surgery or endoscopy which may involve contact with tissue of potentially high- level TSE infectivity.	SG
11 August 2006	Additional annex to the advisory committee on dangerous pathogens (ACDP) Guidance on 'Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy agents: safe working and the prevention of infection. (CMO(2006)11)	Details the additional annex advising on the assessment to be carried out on patients before surgery and endoscopy to identify patients with or at risk of CJD.	SG

12.5 Group A Streptococcus (GAS)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
22 December 2022	Streptococcus cases in the UK – Case definition and guidance. (CMO(2022)41)	Provides update regarding case definitions, guidance and antibiotic supply and management of GAS and iGAS infections.	SG

12.6 Group B Streptococcus infection

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
18 December 2023	Group B streptococcal infections: guidance, data and analysis	The characteristics, diagnosis, treatment, and epidemiology of group B streptococci.	UKHSA

12.7 Hepatitis C (HCV)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
2 September 2016	The Penrose Inquiry: Report of a Scottish Government Commissioned Short-Life Working Group	Report and recommendations of a short life working group which was set up to examine the circumstances in which HCV infections occurred during NHS treatment in Scotland, up to the introduction for a test for Hepatitis C in donated blood in 1991.	SG

12.8 Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
9 October 2026	Joint British Association for Sexual Health and HIV and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists national UK guideline for the management of herpes simplex virus (HSV) in pregnancy and the neonate (2024 update)	This updated national UK guideline provides recommendations for the management of genital herpes simplex virus (HSV) in pregnant women and people, during pregnancy and up to four weeks following birth, as well as the management of neonates.	British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		It covers first-episode and recurrent HSV infection, management during labour and delivery, neonatal assessment and treatment, prevention of postnatal transmission, and breastfeeding. The guideline includes recommendations intended to reduce the risk of HSV transmission to neonates and other vulnerable patient groups. The guideline also includes specific occupational health advice for healthcare professionals with active or recurrent herpes lesions who work in neonatal settings, maternity services or with immunosuppressed patients recommending liaison with Occupational Health. This guidance is included for awareness of its specific occupational health recommendations relating to HSV. It should be noted that this is not an IPC guideline and should not	

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		be interpreted as providing general IPC recommendations. Any queries regarding the interpretation, application or implementation of the guidance should be directed to the organisations responsible for its development (BASHH and RCOG).	

12.9 Meticillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) (including *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia)

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
24 April 2013	MRSA key performance indicators. (CNO(2013)01)	Letter informs NHS Boards that they are expected to begin collecting date using the MRSA KPI Tool with effect from 1 April 2013.	SG
23 February 2011	MRSA Screening	Letter informs NHS boards that they are expected to implement clinical risk assessment (CRA)-based MRSA screening.	SG

12.10 Mpox

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
17 April 2025	Mpox control and elimination: UK strategy 2025 to 2026	This document sets out an overarching public health strategy for controlling and eliminating mpox (previously referred to as	UKHSA

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
		monkeypox) across the UK, focusing on the next 12-month period. It serves as a statement of intent to work towards achieving elimination of mpox transmission.	
24 March 2025	Biological principles for control of mpox in the UK: 4 nations consensus statement	This statement replaces the 'Principles for control of non-HCID mpox in the UK: 4 nations consensus statement', which was last updated in October 2024. In February 2025 ACDP recommended that clade I mpox should no longer be classified as a HCID. This means that mpox (clade I and clade II) is no longer classified as an HCID.	UKHSA
20 March 2025	Clade I Mpox virus derogation, guidance and board preparedness	Advised of change of derogation of Mpox Clade I and that this derogation should not be interpreted as mpox no longer being of any clinical or public health importance and there will be ongoing public health management of cases and contacts	SG
28 June 2022	Monkeypox – New regulations came into effect on Thursday 16 June 2022. (CMO(2022)26)	Provides details of the new regulations which came into effect on Thursday 16 June to make monkeypox a notifiable disease and monkeypox virus a notifiable organism.	SG

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
20 May 2022	Monkeypox (MPX) cases in the UK – Investigation and assessment of individuals suspected to have MPX and management of confirmed cases of MPX. (CMO(2022)22)	Letter to support clinicians in primary and secondary care in the investigation and management of individuals suspected or confirmed to have MPX in the context of an evolving situation.	SG

12.11 Pneumonia

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
2 September 2025	Pneumonia: Diagnosis and management (NG250)	This guideline covers diagnosing and managing community- and hospital-acquired pneumonia babies over 1 month (corrected gestational age), children, young people and adults. It aims to optimise antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic resistance.	NICE
2 September 2025	Pneumonia: diagnosis and management. (Quality standard QS110)	This quality standard covers diagnosing and managing, community- and hospital-acquired pneumonia in babies over 1 month (corrected gestational age), children, young people and adults.	NICE

12.12 Rabies

Date	Policy/Guidance	Summary	Author
16 June 2023	Rabies pre and post-exposure patient pathways. (CMO(2023)10)	Provides updated information on arrangements for rabies assessment, testing, vaccination and treatment in Scotland.	SG

13 Organisation websites

NHS Scotland Assure

- ARHAI Scotland
- Health Facilities

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS)

Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES)

NHS National Services Scotland (NSS)

Public Health Scotland (PHS)

Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG)

Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP)

Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorate (SEHD/SGHD)

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)

United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

World Health Organization (WHO)