

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Policy for Patients

Introduction

Shore Medical is committed to protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of all patients, visitors, and staff. In accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and national guidance, we maintain robust systems to prevent and control the spread of infection within all areas of our service.

This policy outlines how we work to reduce the risk of infection and what patients and visitors can expect from us in terms of hygiene and safety while using our services.

Our Commitment to Infection Prevention and Control

We aim to:

- Maintain high standards of cleanliness and hygiene across all care environments.
- Monitor and manage any potential risks relating to infection.
- Ensure effective procedures are in place in the event of an outbreak of infection.
- Continuously review and improve our infection prevention and control practices based on the latest national guidance and evidence.
- Promote a culture of safety and awareness around infection prevention for everyone who uses or visits our services.

What Patients Can Expect from Us

When you access services at Shore Medical you can expect that:

- Clinical and communal areas are cleaned regularly and thoroughly.
- Equipment used during your care is either single-use or properly sterilised between patients.
- Staff follow strict hand hygiene and protective equipment protocols.
- Any known infections are handled in accordance with national guidance to minimise risk to others.
- Our staff receive regular training in infection prevention and control.
- We adhere to national guidelines from organisations such as the Department of Health, NHS England, Public Health England, and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

Training and Awareness

All staff members, including temporary and non-clinical personnel, receive infection prevention and control training. This ensures that everyone working within our organisation understands the importance of hygiene, cleanliness, and safe working practices.

Monitoring and Compliance

We regularly monitor and review our infection prevention and control measures to ensure they meet the highest standards and comply with legal and professional obligations.

Further Information or Concerns

If you have questions, concerns, or require further information about infection prevention and control at Shore Medical, please speak to a member of the team during your visit or contact us at:

 enquiries.shore@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

Reference

This policy aligns with the Health and Social Care Act 2008: *Code of Practice on the Prevention and Control of Infections and Related Guidance* (DH, 2015), available at:

 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-health-and-social-care-act-2008-code-of-practice-on-the-prevention-and-control-of-infections-and-related-guidance>

Shore Medical incorporating; Heatherview Medical Centre, Lilliput Surgery, Parkstone Tower Practice, Poole Road Surgery and Wessex Road Surgery providing comprehensive primary care and integrated services, to improve patients' healthcare across the Poole Bay area.

Infection Prevention and Control Policies, Protocols, Guidance and Guidelines for Shore Medical
Aseptic-Technique
Blood-Borne-Viruses
Clostridium-Difficile
Creutzfeldt-Jakob-Disease
Hand Hygiene Policy
Infection Control Policy
Invasive-Devices
MDROs including ESBL and CPO
MRSA
Legionella Control Policy
Notifiable-Diseases
Outbreaks Of Communicable Disease
Patient Placement and Assessment for Infection Risk
PPE
PVL-SA
Rabies post exposure treatment protocol
Respiratory and Cough Hygiene
Safe Disposal of Waste Management
Safe Disposal of Care Equipment
Safe Management of Blood and Body Fluids
Safe Management of Linen – Including Uniform
Safe Management of Sharps and Inoculation Injuries
Safe Management of the Care Environment
Scabies
Specimen Collection
Standard Precautions (SICPS and TBPs)
Venepuncture
Viral Gastroenteritis Norovirus

Last reviewed: April 2025 – IPC interim Lead

Next review due: April 2026

Infection Control Lead

Shore Medical

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Shore Medical Registered address: 7 Poole Road, Bournemouth, BH2 5QR

Email: enquiries.shore@dorsetgpc.nhs.uk

www.shoremedical.co.uk