



**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

<b>PUBLIC BOARD MEETING</b>	<b>26 March 2025</b> <b>Item 11</b>
<b>THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>PATIENT AND STAFF SAFETY – HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION (HAI) REPORT</b>	

<b>Lead Director</b>	Dave Bywater, Director, Care Quality and Professional Development
<b>Author</b>	Karen Burnett, Head of Service for Infection Prevention and Control
<b>Action required</b>	The Board is asked to <b>discuss and note</b> this report.
<b>Statement of Assurance</b>	There are clear and effective structures and processes that achieve system wide compliance with mandatory and best practice standards in Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) and establish systems for monitoring outcomes which demonstrate improved patient safety and improved and safer working practice for staff.
<b>Key points</b>	Mandatory information required for Board reports (page 4) Vaccination uptake (page 4).
<b>Associated Corporate Risk Identification</b>	Risk 4636 – Health and wellbeing of staff Risk 4638 – Wider system changes and pressures
<b>Associated Clinical Risk Identification</b>	4930 – There is a risk that patients will deteriorate. 4624 - There is a risk of patient harm due to SAS responding to patients who present with increasingly complex needs.
<b>Timing</b>	An IPC activity update paper is presented to the Board at each meeting.
<b>Link to Corporate Ambitions</b>	We will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work collaboratively with citizens and our partners to create healthier and safer communities</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovate to continuously improve our care and enhance the resilience and sustainability of our services.</li> <li>• Provide the people of Scotland with compassionate, safe and effective care when and where they need it</li> <li>• Be a great place to work, focusing on staff experience, health and wellbeing</li> </ul>
<b>Link to NHS Scotland's Quality Ambitions</b>	The work and information referred to in this report supports the Service in its contribution to safe and effective care.
<b>Benefit to Patients</b>	Safe clinical practices, a clean environment and patient care equipment protect patients from the risk of healthcare-associated infection (HAI).
<b>Climate Change Impact Identification</b>	This paper has identified no impacts on climate change.
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) policies apply to all staff and patient groups. These are based on NHS Scotland HAI policy and guidance. Antimicrobial resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) conduct equality impact assessments on all HAI national guidance, policy and standards. The hand hygiene, Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) and cleanliness audit results reported are a mandatory HAI requirement related to national policy and guidance



**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**

Working in Partnership with Universities



**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

**SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD**

**HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION (HAI) UPDATE REPORT**

**KAREN BURNETT, HEAD OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

## **SECTION 1: BACKGROUND**

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) is critical to keeping people safe when they are receiving health and social care. Effective IPC can help reduce the risk of infection and ensure the safety of people receiving care, staff and visitors. IPC is integral to quality health and social care delivery because anyone is at risk of developing an infection in these settings. Factors that are known to increase this risk include extremes of age (for example being older or very young), the complexity of interventions that are part of a person's care and prolonged or inappropriate use of antimicrobials.

Good IPC practice can help to reduce the prevalence of infections (including healthcare-associated infections - HAIs) that are associated with the delivery of care in hospitals, long-term care facilities (including care homes) and other care settings (such as ambulances, prisons, hospices and independent healthcare facilities).

HAIs can occur as a direct or indirect result of healthcare and treatment including the environment or setting where care is delivered.

## **SECTION 2: DISCUSSION**

This report does not provide additional data to that presented in the January report unless otherwise stated.

IPC standards are a key component in the drive to reduce the risk of infections in health and social care in Scotland. Standards support:

- organisations to quality assure their IPC practice and approaches, and
- the IPC principles set out in the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM).

Each Board is required to receive Infection Prevention and Control Updates bi-monthly on key IPC activity ([DL \(2015\) 19](#) and [DL \(2019\) 23](#)), namely

Doc: Patient and Staff Safety Healthcare Associated Infection Update	Page 3	Author: Head of Infection Prevention and Control
Date: 2025-03-26	Version 1.0	Review Date: May 2025

1. Surveillance
  - Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia (SAB)
  - Surgical Site Infections (SSI)
  - Escherichia coli bacteraemia (ECB)
  - Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI)
2. Antimicrobial Use
3. Hand Hygiene
4. National Cleanliness Standards (NCSS) Compliance

Due to the unique nature of the Scottish Ambulance Service (the Service) there is no requirement for surveillance of the above infections as this will be captured within the territorial Board reports. The Service on occasion insert peripheral venous catheters (PVC) and this is audited and reported to the IPC Committee via compliance with the PVC bundle.

Antimicrobial usage is reported through the medicines management committee with 6monthly reporting to the IPC Committee.

Hand hygiene audits are not undertaken in silo but rather have been incorporated into the SICPs audits, these will be reported to the Board. There is no additional data to present for this report.

The NCSS Compliance audits for domestic and estates will continue to be reported. There is no additional data to present for this report.

Other areas may be reported to the Board as an exception.

### **Leadership and governance**

The IPC team consists of:

- Head of Service for IPC
- Lead IPC Practitioner
- Senior IPC Practitioner
- IPC auditor (x2)
- Vacant post (x1) Band 6

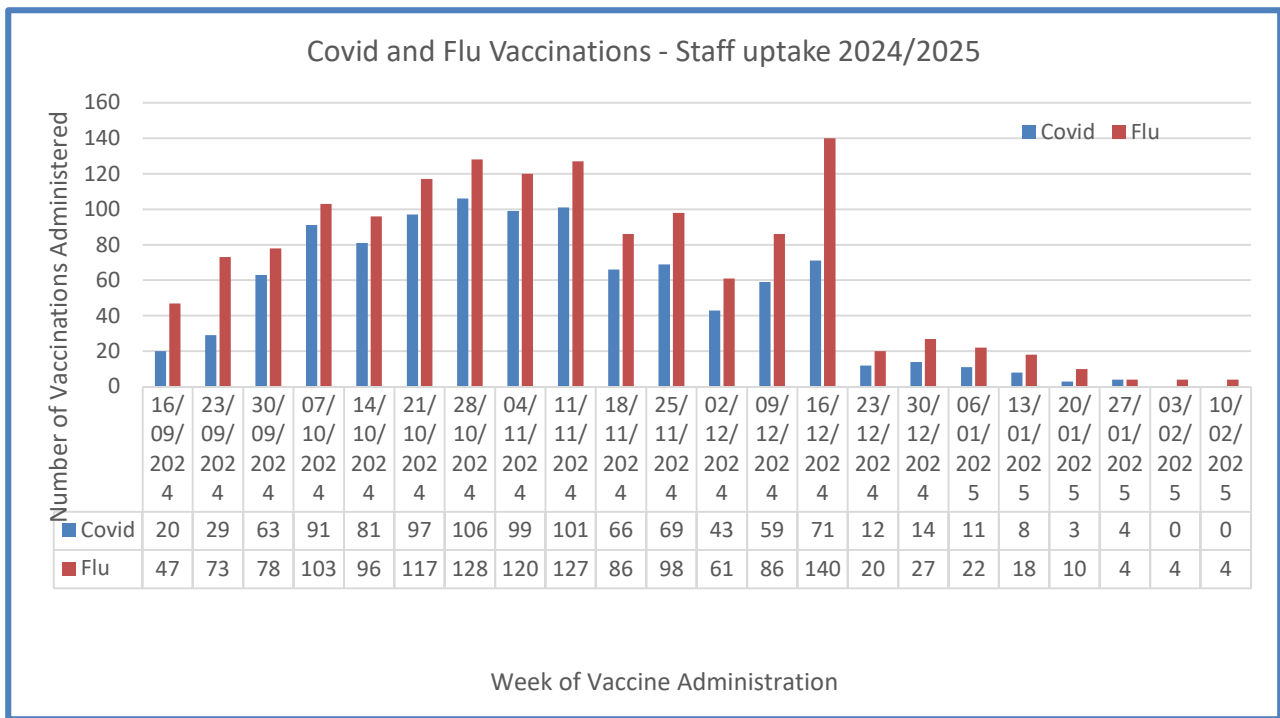
The vacancy within the team is for a Clinical band 6 (30hour) IPC Practitioner. This position provides additional clinical support to the team thus creating resilience and succession planning within the department. This vacancy has resulted in delays within the IPC program of work which will be further elaborated within the annual report.

### **Vaccinations**

The statistics on SAS employee vaccinations, obtained from Public Health Scotland (PHS) are shown in Chart 1 below

Chart 1: The number of Covid and Flu Vaccinations administered from Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Doc: Patient and Staff Safety Healthcare Associated Infection Update	Page 4	Author: Head of Infection Prevention and Control
Date: 2025-03-26	Version 1.0	Review Date: May 2025



This information has been obtained from PHS Covid Analytics department who have taken data from National Clinical Data Set (NCDS) and Scottish Workforce Information Standard System (SWISS). The organisation has no control of this information to analysis this data or gain additional information.

### Clean and Safe Care Equipment

The National Cleaning Services Specification (NCSS) is mandatory, and IPC audits of stations and vehicles remain a priority as reflected in the Programme of Work for 2025/2026.

The revised NCSS standards are in the final stages of consultation, with planned publication in Summer 2025.

The IPC team will review the standards when published and make changes to audits/policies as required.

## SECTION 3: RECOMMENDATION

1. From April the Patient and Staff Safety Healthcare Associated Infection Update will be renamed as the Infection Prevention and Control Activity Update.

The Board is invited to note the content of the report and approve the recommendation.

Doc: Patient and Staff Safety Healthcare Associated Infection Update	Page 5	Author: Head of Infection Prevention and Control
Date: 2025-03-26	Version 1.0	Review Date: May 2025