

# Library and Knowledge Services case study

# *Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust: Assisting Infection Prevention and Control Policy update*

28th April 2021

## Reason for enquiry

The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team were in the process of updating their policies and they approached the library for support finding literature. They required help ensuring the references contained in the policy were up to date, whether there was any new or additional guidelines or reports that would be beneficial for inclusion and help with referencing.

Quote: "The help provided by the library service was invaluable. They were extremely responsive, approachable, and respectful in their manner. The results were returned in a timely and efficient manner, and we were very pleased with the results. They were all that we were wanting from the service."

## What the knowledge and library specialist did

The Library team went through the current policy, identified the current references, and checked to see if these were still current or if they needed updating (e.g. government legislations). An evidence search was performed to identify any new and relevant literature. Neighbouring NHS Trust policies were also identified so that they could be compared. We checked through the references to ensure they were formatted correctly in Harvard referencing style.

# Impact of input from the library and knowledge service

The outcome was the following Trust policies were updated:

- Management of a patient undertaking bodily fluid smearing

- Obtaining clinical samples for microbiology

- Meticillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) management and control

- Blood and body fluid spillage

- Sepsis recognition

- Aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ANTT)

- Group A streptococcus management and control

Policies have to be updated every 3 years, and it happened that quite a few IPC policies had to be updated at the same time. Due to the pandemic the time the IPC team had to update the policies was limited. The library help provided was a great benefit to us as a team and the Trust as it helped us to update the policies within the given timeframe, they were able to do the legwork finding the research and it saved us a lot of time. We would not have known where to look for the evidence and it relieved some of the burden from us as finding the latest evidence is the main bit that takes so long to do.

## Immediate Impact

**Reduced risk or improved safety**: The more robust the policy the better the outcome for both staff and patients. Ensuring the policies contain the latest evidence is vital to the safety of staff and patients.

**Improved the quality of patient care**: Policies inform patient care, so the library helped the IPC team to feel confident that the evidence provided in the policies was accurate and up to date, which in turn helps to provide high-quality patient care.

**More informed decision making**: The policies are vital to decision making with patients as they are to go-to guides for staff.

**Productivity and efficiency**: Allowed the IPC team to focus on the content of the policy and get them updated in a timely manner

## Probable future Impact

**Saved money or contributed to financial effectiveness**: Future impact as the results of these policies are to ultimately save people from getting infections, so by ensuring they contain the very latest evidence it will ultimately be a cost-saving for the Trust.

All of the immediate impacts listed above are also future impacts due to the nature of policies.

## Submission by:

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## For further information on how you can get similar support contact your local NHS library and knowledge service.