Dear Colleagues

**Publication of Healthcare Improvement Scotland Infection Prevention and Control Standards**

**Background**

The Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) standards were commissioned by the Chief Nursing Officer Directorate (CNOD) on behalf of the Scottish Government and co-produced with national and local stakeholders.

The HIS IPC standards are informed by current evidence, best practice and stakeholder recommendations and are considered to be a requisite of safe, high-quality care in all settings and as such supersede HIS’ healthcare associated infections (HAIs) standards published in 2015.

**Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Standards**

A single set of standards has been developed for use across health and adult social care from **Monday 16 May**. This will support the Once for Scotland approach and further integration of health and social care. The standards will underpin HIS’ programme of inspection of the safety and cleanliness in acute and community hospitals. The Care Inspectorate inspect social care services using self-evaluation frameworks (which include IPC practice) that are informed by these standards and the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual.

These HIS IPC standards follow the same format and each standard includes:

- a statement of the level of performance to be achieved
- a rationale providing reasons why the standard is considered important
- a list of criteria describing the required structures, processes and outcomes
- what to expect if you are a person experiencing care
- what is expected if you are a member of staff, and
- what the standards mean for organisations, including examples of evidence of achievement

The HIS IPC standards will be adhered to across all health and adult social care settings including NHSScotland settings, independent healthcare and adult social care including care homes.

From the:
Chief Nursing Officer
16 May 2022
DL (2022) 14

**For Action**

NHS Scotland Chairs, NHS Scotland Chief Executives, Chief Officers Health and Social Care Partnerships Local Authorities Chief Executives
Chief Social Work Officers Adult social care services

**For information**

HR Directors, Medical Directors, Nurse Directors, Primary Care Leads, Directors of Pharmacy, Directors of Public Health, Directors of Dentistry, Optometric Advisors, All Independent Contractors (Dental, Pharmacy, General Practice and Optometry), Infection Control Managers Infection Control Doctors Infection Control Nurses Estate Management

**Enquiries**

Scottish Government Directorate for Chief Nursing Officer E-mail: cno@gov.scot
The Care Inspectorate and HIS will take these IPC standards into account during all relevant scrutiny, and regulatory activities.

**Implementation**

The Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (HEI) within Healthcare Improvement Scotland will use these standards as a basis for inspection in NHS Hospitals. These standards are a revision of those issued in 2015 and the process for HEI inspection has not changed. Consultation with stakeholders, including Infection Control Managers, supports this approach.

The Care inspectorate have historically referred to the previous 2015 standards as best practice, however, the applicability of these new IPC standards to adult social care makes these a requisite for adult care homes settings and these are now explicitly included in the Care Inspectorate framework for inspection.

The Care Inspectorate will provide support to social care providers in all settings during the 3 month implementation period through a series of webinars to introduce the standards and host question and answer sessions.

**Boards** will undertake a **three month implementation** period to embed the new standards, concluding on **Monday 8 August 2022**.

The **Care Inspectorate** will incorporate the new IPC standards into their self-evaluation Framework for **all inspections** from **Monday 5 September 2022**.

**Health and Social Care settings**

All health and social care staff have an important role to play in preventing the spread of infection by recognising that IPC is everybody’s responsibility.

It is expected that the standards should be reviewed pragmatically by service providers. Individual criteria may be applied by service providers in different ways in recognition of the local context and breadth of services and support delivered across health and social care in Scotland.

While NHSScotland and older people and adult care home organisations and settings are expected to meet the standards, the detailed implementation of this document is for local determination.

All other health (including independent healthcare) and adult social care organisations and settings (including adult day care) are encouraged to adopt the standards as good practice. Where a principle or criterion applies to a specific setting this has been highlighted throughout the report.
The Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) standards are available via the following link:

- [https://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/standards_and_guidelines/stnds/ipc_standards.aspx](https://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/standards_and_guidelines/stnds/ipc_standards.aspx)

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Professor Alex McMahon
Chief Nursing Officer