

Ixworth Surgery - Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C)

Annual Statement 2025

Purpose

This annual statement will be generated each year in accordance with the requirements of The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (2022) Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance. It summarises:

- Any infection transmission incidents and any action taken (these will have been reported in accordance with our Significant Event procedure)
- Details of any infection control audits undertaken and actions undertaken
- Details of any risk assessments undertaken for prevention and control of infection
- Details of staff training
- Any review and update of policies, procedures and guidelines

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Leads

Whilst all staff at Ixworth surgery are responsible for maintaining high standards of infection prevention, the two nominated leads for Infection Prevention and Control are as follows:

- Lead GP Dr Karoline Chan
- Lead Nurse Louise Shields

Both Dr Chan and Louise oversee and monitor the standards of IP&C across all aspects of the surgery

Infection Transmission Incidents (Significant Events)

Significant events (which may involve examples of good practice as well as challenging events) are investigated in detail to see what can be learnt and to indicate changes that might lead to future improvements. All significant events are reviewed in the staff meetings and learning is cascaded to all relevant staff.

- In the past year there has been no significant event(s) raised that related to infection prevention and control

Infection Prevention Audit and Actions

The Annual Infection Prevention and Control audit was completed in February 2025. All actions and recommendations will be delegated and fed back to the team accordingly.

Ixworth Surgery plan to continue to undertake the following audits in 2025:

- Weekly Safe Management of the Care Environment Audit Toll for General Practice
- Monthly Hand Hygiene Competency Audit (alongside rolling annual mandatory Hand Hygiene Training)
- Monthly Decontamination of Equipment Audit
- Monthly Personal Protective Equipment Audit Tool – Putting on and Removing PPE
- Annual Infection Prevention & Control Audit – Compliance for General practice (Environment, IP&C Policies and Practices)

- Annual Annual Aseptic Technique Competency Assessment Record and Procedure Audit Tool
- Annual (at a minimum) National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness Efficacy Checklist
- National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness External Audit
- Functional Risk Score Sheet as appropriate (FR1 weekly, FR2 monthly, FR3 bi-monthly, FR4 quarterly, FR5 Six monthly, FR6 annually)

In the event of any non-compliance, action plans will be drawn up locally, reviewed and monitored.

Risk Assessments

As part of managing the health and safety of the surgery, we must control the risks in the workplace. To do this we need to think about what might cause harm to people and decide whether we are taking reasonable steps to prevent that harm.

Risk assessing identifies sensible measures to control the risks in the workplace. The following IP&C risk assessments have been conducted and documented:

- Safe storage, handling and use of Chlorine tablets
- Floorcoverings in clinical rooms
- Use of non-disposable tourniquets
- Liquid nitrogen – storage, handling and use
- Compressed medical oxygen
- Cleaning products – storage, handling and disposal by domestic staff
- Acetone (nail varnish remover) – storage and handling
- Portable Fans in Clinical Areas
- Clinical handwashing sinks
- Use of super-absorbent polymer granules – storage, handling and use
- Sharps management
- Use of Perasafe© - safe storage, handling and use
- Thinprep Cytology Solution – including data safety sheet and instructions for use
- Fabric chairs in clinical rooms

Completed and/or reviewed Infection Prevention & Control risk assessments are highlighted on the monthly Staff Newsletter which is circulated to all staff members. In addition to being discussed at the monthly Clinical meeting, and available to staff at all times.

Training

All our staff must complete mandatory annual training in Infection Prevention and Control and Hand Hygiene via e-Learning at the appropriate level.

Currently all staff training is undertaken on Teamnet which is a recognised provider of online training to healthcare providers such as GP Practices, Dental Practices, Nursing/Care Homes, Hospices, and Urgent Care; working in partnership with the NHS and professional bodies to support patient care by providing e-learning to educate and train the health and social care workforce.

Policies

Policies relating to Infection Prevention and Control are available to all staff and visitors and are reviewed and updated at least annually. The current policies recommended by SNEE ICB IP&C Team are evidence-based policies that sit alongside our local policies.

All are amended on an on-going basis as current advice, guidance, and legislation changes.

All Infection Prevention and Control related policies will be reviewed and updated accordingly for this year.

Any changes to Infection Prevention & Control policies are highlighted on the monthly Staff Newsletter which is circulated to all staff members. In addition to being discussed at the monthly Clinical meeting.

Responsibility

Prevention and management of infection is the responsibility of all staff working in health and social care, and an integral element of patient safety programmes. It is applicable to all health and social care organisations, regardless of the patient setting or care provider.

It is therefore the responsibility of each individual member of staff to be familiar with this Statement and their roles and responsibilities in relation to Infection Prevention & Control and the agreed Ixworth Surgery Policies & procedures.

Review date

Feb 2026

Responsibility for Review

The Infection Prevention and Control Nurse Louise Shields is responsible for reviewing and producing the Annual Statement.

Louise Shields

Nurse Practitioner / Infection Prevention & Control Nurse

For and on behalf of Ixworth Surgery.