



Chief Nursing Officer's Directorate

Chief Nursing Officer Division
Amanda Croft, Chief Nursing Officer
E: CNO@gov.scot

Mental Health and Social Care Directorate

Donna Bell, Directorate
E: Donna.bell@gov.scot

Nurse Directors

cc: Directors of Finance
NHS Board Chief Executives
Infection Control Managers
Infection Prevention Control Teams
Incident Management Teams
Local Oversight Teams – Nurse
Health Protection Teams
Directors, Chief Officers, Chief Social
Work Officers, Directors of Public Health

24 May 2021

Dear Colleagues

Launch of the new National Infection Prevention and Control Manual for Older People and Adult Care Homes and the National Cleaning Specification for Older People and Adult Care Homes

Further to the letter sent to you on 20 May 2021 regarding support and oversight arrangements for infection prevention and control in care homes, I am delighted to confirm that the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual for Older People and Adult Care Homes (Manual) has been launched today, on the 24 May 2021. I can also confirm that the National Cleaning Specification for Older People and Adult Care Homes (Cleaning Specification) has also been published today.

As you will be aware the National Infection Prevention of Control Manual (NIPCM) was published by the Chief Nursing Officer in 2012 and was mandated for use in the NHS. The NIPCM is National Policy for the NHS and it was and continues to be an important document which provides straightforward and practical guidance for these clinical settings. The NIPCM was not mandated for social care settings, however, it was a source of information and guidance which was utilised within social care settings. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the NIPCM was thought not to fully meet the need of care homes due to its focus on acute care, which differs from home environments within care homes. The Scottish COVID-19 Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Addendum (COVID-19 Addendum) was published to provide further guidance and support for adult care home settings in response to COVID-19. The COVID-19 Addendum focuses on infection prevention and control (IPC) practices specific to COVID-19 and it was agreed that, the guidance and language contained within the NIPCM needed to be attuned to adult social care settings, to support the future and 'business as usual' implementation of IPC and cleaning

practices within adult care homes, which as you know are first and foremost people's homes. In response to this the Manual and the Cleaning Specification were developed by the National Antimicrobial Resistance & Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland (ARHAI) in conjunction with extensive stakeholder engagement, including consultation with care homes.

The information contained within the Manual is based on the same principles and evidence base as NIPCM, however the language and context has been updated to provide clear practical advice relevant for adult care home settings. It also reflects and links to Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPS) as the basic IPC measures necessary to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognised and unrecognised sources of infection.

Both the Manual and the Cleaning Specification are mandatory for all health and social care staff working within adult care homes, therefore should be adopted within all adult and older people care home settings. The aim of the Manual and the Cleaning Specification is ease of use for care home staff to support the application of effective IPC precautions, including best practice cleaning processes; to reduce variation and optimise infection prevention and control and cleaning practice throughout Scotland; to reduce the risk of infections; and to align practice, monitoring, quality improvement and scrutiny.

The Manual can be accessed via the following web link:
It is accessible on desktops, tablets and mobile devices
<https://www.nipcm.scot.nhs.uk/> and the Cleaning Specification can be accessed through links within the Manual.

To ensure consistency of practice, during ongoing community transmission of COVID-19, care homes should continue to firstly follow the guidance contained with the Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Addendum (COVID-19 Addendum). The COVID-19 Addendum will continue to be mandated for adult and older people care home settings. The reason for this is the COVID-19 Addendum is disease specific policy and guidance which stipulates control measures over and above those that are contained within the Manual, to specifically respond to COVID-19. Therefore, the COVID-19 Addendum has the most appropriate guidance to manage the transmission risk while within the pandemic.

For clarity the COVID-19 Addendum, Manual and Cleaning Specification are mandated for adult and older people care homes only. Residential services for children, young people, learning development, care in the community settings and social care services should continue to follow the Scottish COVID-19 Community Health and Care Settings Infection and Prevention Control Addendum, where applicable, during the COVID-19 pandemic. These settings should follow guidance published on Health Protection Scotland and provided through their local health boards and local authority areas for business as usual guidance, post pandemic.

To support care home staff and managers to understand their role in implementing the Manual, Scottish Government, ARHAI Scotland and NHS Education Scotland (NES) have invited all adult care home staff and those supporting them to attend a workshop which will advise staff on the purpose and contents of the Manual and the Cleaning Specification and its application in the care home setting. The workshops also include information on the

inspection process, as care homes will start to be assessed on the precautions and specifications included in the Manual and the Cleaning Specification three months after its launch, through inspections lead by the Care Inspector. During the transition to post pandemic business as usual care homes will continue to be inspected against the Addendum, as per the Care Inspectorate inspection process.

Workshops have also been arranged with Health Facilities Scotland to support the implementation of the Cleaning Specification.

You can access the dates and further information on these workshops via the following web-links.


Manual: [Infection Prevention & Control Manual for Older people and Adult Care Homes workshops | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#)

Cleaning Specification: <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/49779/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-zone/preventing-infection-in-care/infection-prevention-control-manual-for-older-people-and-adult-care-homes-workshops>

A letter will also be sent out to care home managers with information on the publication of the Manual and Cleaning Specification and their mandated status and the support available to them to implement.

We appreciate your role in supporting care homes to embed the practices contained within the Manual and Cleaning Specification. The partnership and support you provide will continue to be valued by care homes going forward as care homes adapt to business as usual practices.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Croft
Chief Nursing Officer



Donna Bell
Director of Mental Health and Social Care