

# Infection Prevention and Control

Information and learning resources for health care staff

ADVICE AND INFORMATION



# Acknowledgements

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## Publication

This is RCN advice and information. Guidance on how to search and find the relevant evidence-based information and resources you may require to help keep your knowledge and practice up-to-date.

## Description

Infection prevention and control (IPC) practice is an essential component of health and social care, and policy and guidance is constantly evolving. Research helps to inform the evidence base for this important area of nursing practice. This resource gives you guidance on how to search and find the relevant evidence-based information and guidance you may require to help keep your infection prevention knowledge and practice up-to-date.

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# Introduction

Infection prevention and control (IPC) practice is an essential component of health and social care, and policy and guidance is constantly evolving. Research helps to inform the evidence base for this important area of nursing practice. Currently there is a lack of quality research evidence to inform IPC practice, this highlights the importance of non-research based evidence supporting nursing practice.

IPC is inextricably linked to antimicrobial resistance and therefore has a central role in health and social care and public health services. Its importance is underlined within the *Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer* (Davies, 2013) and the *UK five year Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Strategy*. Examples of resources on AMR can be found in [appendix 1](#).

Historically, diverse expert opinion and ritual have shaped the nursing practice. But with developments in evidence and improved reporting of some infections we now recognise information and guidance based on available best evidence and expert consensus to be the 'gold standard' as this incorporates systematic searching, an appraisal of methodological quality, and an assessment of clinical relevance. Surveillance systems in place at local, regional and national levels also provide important information which can be used to target local infection prevention practice needs.

Identifying evidence and incorporating it into everyday clinical practice is an essential skill in preventing health care associated infection (HCAI). However, it can be difficult for health care staff to keep up-to-date and adopt best practice due to the constant flow of information and mass of online information thrown up by internet search engines. The result can be

information overload that swamps staff, and much of this information may not be correct or relevant to a different country, have a strong evidence base or objective opinion. Using recognised professional sites instead of search engines can help reduce the risk of inaccurate information.

This resource gives you guidance on how to search and find the relevant evidence-based information and guidance you may require to help keep your infection prevention knowledge and practice up-to-date. It will also point you in the direction of further resources which we hope will save you precious time and help expand your understanding of this specialist area.

This updated resource may be of benefit to:

- nursing students
- nurses undertaking post-registration/graduate studies
- infection prevention and control nurses and health protection teams – resource/reference to signpost people to
- infection prevention link practitioners (including link nurses or champions)
- individuals who deliver nursing care working within health care environments.

Electronic links have been embedded within this resource to help readers easily access available information on infection prevention and control. Whilst these are current at the time of publication, links may be moved by the host web provider. The RCN is therefore unable to accept responsibility for any changes made by other organisations.

# Finding reliable resources

There are a variety of options when it comes to finding reliable resources, including:

- local information – trust/employer’s intranet, policies and library
- study days, conferences, courses, in-practice and virtual e-learning resources
- health care industry/commercial companies
- professional organisations such as the Royal College of Nursing
- guidelines from national bodies and government organisations.

The RCN resources/library [www.rcn.org.uk/library](http://www.rcn.org.uk/library) aims to help you to develop your skills in the use of the internet and may be a good starting point for locating information as you can access over 1,000 e-journals, 2,000 e-books and a wide range of nursing and health care databases from your home or mobile device to support your practice

Virtual Training Suite is a set of free internet tutorials to help you develop internet research skills for your university course.

All of the tutorials are written and reviewed by a national team of lecturers and librarians from universities across the UK.

Aimed at students, lecturers and researchers who want to improve their knowledge of the best resources for the nursing, midwifery and health visiting professions, you can find the tutorial at: [www.vtstutorials.co.uk](http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk)

You can also find further publications on internet use from this RCN web directory: [www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/research-and-innovation](http://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/research-and-innovation). You may find it useful when evaluating the quality of clinical information or websites you visit.

## Local resources

These are an ideal place to start searching for information as these will have been written specifically to meet local needs, and will be based on national evidence or best practice.

### Employing organisation/trust/local health board intranet and policies

All organisations that provide health and adult social care are required to have in place policies to support their prevention and management of infection based on national guidance - (Health and Social Care Act 2008, Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance (Department of Health Updated July 2015). The code can be found at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-health-and-social-care-act-2008-code-of-practice-on-the-prevention-and-control-of-infections-and-related-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-health-and-social-care-act-2008-code-of-practice-on-the-prevention-and-control-of-infections-and-related-guidance). You will find your organisation's policies on your intranet, and/or as printed paper policies in folders in the workplace (be careful to check these are the latest versions). These provide evidence-based policy and guidance on infection prevention and control practice in your health care setting, and will contain references for further information and reading.

### Library

Most large health care organisations will have medical and nursing textbooks in a local health care library where you can also learn how to gain computer access to a range of journals using specific organisational passwords. Talk to your local health care librarian who can also act as a useful resource by sending you up-to-date alerts on any new information received.

### Your local infection prevention and control (IPC) team, and health protection teams (England/Scotland/Wales and Northern Ireland)

Infection prevention or health protection specialists are a valuable resource. In the first instance local policies and guidance before approaching specialist teams, who should be used as a secondary reference point for complex enquiries only.

Within England Public Health England (PHE) teams are also in operation. There are nine PHE centres and contact details can be found on the PHE website at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/contacts-phe-regions-and-local-centres](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/contacts-phe-regions-and-local-centres)

These teams often cover large geographical areas or multiple health care sites. You may be able to search for their contact details via local policies/guidelines or your employer's intranet. Alternatively, your local internal switchboard may provide contact details.

PHE's health protection teams work alongside the NHS, local authorities and emergency services providing specialist support in communicable disease, health protection and emergency planning. To discover how to reach your regional PHE team, please go to: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england)

In Wales health protection teams details are at: [www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=457&pid=25689](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=457&pid=25689)

In Ireland details can be found at: [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

In Scotland details can be found at: [www.hps.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk)

# Study days, conferences, courses and e-learning

## Study days, conferences and RCN Congress

- If you work in a large health care organisation many of your local IPC teams will hold study days or lectures/updates on a regular basis and these will be reasonably priced or even free, so make the most of this opportunity and ask around to find out dates and venues.
- The RCN holds a number of events each year on infection prevention and control – including events at RCN Congress – which may be helpful. Please visit the RCN website at [www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events](http://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events) for more information or contact the RCN Events Team on 020 7647 3577, email [rcnevents@rcn.org.uk](mailto:rcnevents@rcn.org.uk) or visit the RCN Infection Prevention and Control page at: [www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control](http://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control) or the Public Health page at: [www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/public-health](http://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/public-health)
- The Infection Prevention Society (IPS) holds an annual conference, as well as branch study days and other events. Further information can be accessed from the society's website at: [www.ips.uk.net](http://www.ips.uk.net)
- The International Resource for Infection Control (iNRIC) has a link to national and international study days and conferences at: [www.nric.org.uk](http://www.nric.org.uk)

## Getting started on Twitter

A guide for those who are new to Twitter on how to use this social media site effectively, with information on registering for an account, using hashtags, mentions and direct messages as well as top tips for getting noticed is available at: [www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/royal-college-of-nursing/documents/publications/2015/september/005031.pdf](http://www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/royal-college-of-nursing/documents/publications/2015/september/005031.pdf)

## Courses on infection prevention and control

A variety of infection prevention and control training courses are available, for more information you should contact your local universities. There is currently no defined baseline standard which infection control specialists or link nurses are trained to.

For e-learning in infection prevention you can access the Skills for Health e-learning at: [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/services/item/22-elearning-healthcare](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/services/item/22-elearning-healthcare)

This programme provides a guide for clinical and non-clinical staff working across the health sector in the UK.

Health Education England (HEE) provides an online training course on reducing antimicrobial resistance. This can be accessed at: [www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/antimicrobial-resistance](http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/antimicrobial-resistance)

*First Steps*, an RCN resource for health care assistants contains information on generic clinical IPC practice elements relating to health, safety and security. It is available at: <http://rcnhca.org.uk/clinical-skills>

### Scotland

The NHS Education for Scotland provide educational solutions that support excellence in health care for the people of Scotland and online infection prevention and control courses that can be accessed at [www.nes.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk)

## Health industry/ commercial sector

Many health care companies provide training material and resources for local events – talk to your local IPC team who will have links with industry and will know which companies provide evidence-based information and training on their products.

# UK-based professional organisations

## The Royal College of Nursing

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice, and shapes health policies.

The RCN considers infection prevention and control to be a key element of governance and is committed to supporting nurses to enhance nursing practice and awareness in this area.

Information and professional resources can be found at Infection Prevention and Control webpage on the RCN website at: [www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control](http://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control) and also at the Public Health section [www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/public-health](http://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/public-health) and patient safety systems and human factors section [www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/patient-safety-and-human-factors](http://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/patient-safety-and-human-factors)

A list of infection prevention and control publications including topics such as infection prevention and control commissioning toolkit, glove use and the prevention of occupational dermatitis and selection and use of wipes guidance can be found at [www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control/publications](http://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control/publications)

## The RCN Library and Heritage Centre

As the world's largest dedicated nursing collection, with four libraries (Wales, Scotland, England, Northern Ireland) and online access to quality information resources around the clock, the RCN Library and Archive Services are on hand to assist you in finding information to support best practice in the workplace and aid your studies.

Our team of expert information professionals are available to support you in a number of ways including:

- subject guides available on the [RCN library website](http://www.rcn.org.uk)
- a subject guide on infection control is available online at: [www.rcn.org.uk/library/subject-guides/infection-prevention-and-control-subject-guide](http://www.rcn.org.uk/library/subject-guides/infection-prevention-and-control-subject-guide)
- training sessions to provide you with the skills to find and evaluate quality evidence needed to search for and evaluate quality evidence
- free literature searches for full members of the RCN
- answering email, telephone, web chat and in person enquiries.

RCN library online services are available to members through the RCN library website with links to specialised databases to search for information and access to more than 1,100 full text e-journals and 30,000 e-books covering all areas of nursing and allied health.

### Learning/education/revalidation

The RCN provides learning resources to support your professional development, including publications and a website providing information on NMC revalidation and a number of frequently asked questions.

To help with your revalidation visit: [www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/revalidation](http://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/revalidation) or <http://revalidation.nmc.org.uk>

### RCN publications and research

Find all current RCN publications, clinical guidelines and details of the work of the RCN Research and Development Co-ordinating centre.

- Publications [www.rcn.org.uk/publications](http://www.rcn.org.uk/publications)
- Clinical guidelines [www.rcn.org.uk/search?Scope=Local&Keyword=clinical%20guidelines&Relevance=True](http://www.rcn.org.uk/search?Scope=Local&Keyword=clinical%20guidelines&Relevance=True)

### RCN networks and forums

The RCN hosts a generic Infection Prevention Network which acts as a communication hub for members on matters of interest relating to



infection prevention and control. Access to the network is free and is supported by the RCN infection prevention and control web area. Visit: [www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control](http://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control) Additionally, a network for those working with Children and Young people (CYP) has been established with a focus on IPC. This network uses a Facebook page to communicate.

If you wish to join the IPC Network please email [ipc@rcn.org.uk](mailto:ipc@rcn.org.uk)

If you wish to join the CYP infection prevention and control network please visit: [www.facebook.com/groups/RCNChildrenandYoungPeopleIPCNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/groups/RCNChildrenandYoungPeopleIPCNetwork)

### RCN forums

The RCN hosts a number of professional nursing practice forums. Organised by members, for members, they provide a means to share best practice, information, and ideas for those working in a similar nursing speciality or with similar interests. RCN members can join up to three forums for free, please visit [www.rcn.org.uk/forums](http://www.rcn.org.uk/forums) for more details.

## Infection Prevention Society (IPS)

The Infection Prevention Society (IPS) exists to promote the advancement of education in infection prevention and control for the benefit of the community as a whole. It provides training courses, accreditation schemes, education materials and audit tools, and organises meetings and conferences. Please visit [www.ips.uk.net](http://www.ips.uk.net)

## Healthcare Infection Society (formerly Hospital Infection Society) (HIS)

The HIS exists to foster the advancement of knowledge and education of all those who have an interest in the important field of hospital acquired infection. Its website provides links to other relevant sites and makes available reports and guidelines from the working parties funded and supported by the society. Information and application forms for scientific grants and membership are also available online at [www.his.org.uk](http://www.his.org.uk)

## UK BioIndustry Association (BIA)

UK BioIndustry Association (BIA) is the trade association for innovative enterprises involved in UK bioscience. Members include emerging and more established bioscience companies; pharmaceutical companies; academic, research and philanthropic organisations; and service providers to the bioscience sector. The BIA represents the interests of its members to a broad section of stakeholders, from government and regulators to patient groups, microbiology and the media. Please visit: [www.bioindustry.org/home](http://www.bioindustry.org/home)

## British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC)

[www.bsac.org.uk](http://www.bsac.org.uk)

At the forefront of the antimicrobial chemotherapy field the society sets standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing and use, both within the UK and overseas, supporting microbiologists in their practice and the promotion and provision of channels through which its members can ensure their continuing professional development.

## Central Sterilising Club (CSC)

<http://centralsterilisingclub.org>

The club is a multi-disciplinary forum for the exchange of information in relation to decontamination and is of interest to any nurse in a role related to decontamination (particularly cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation) of medical equipment – for example, nurses working in endoscopy, theatres or infection prevention. The club hosts an annual conference and study days that are well attended and evaluated.

# Online resources

## Search engines

There are a wide variety of search engines you can visit which will provide links to a variety of sites – be careful which information you trust as it may not be evidence based, objective or relevant to the subject you are searching for.

The websites listed below will help provide the evidence base and policy guidance on infection prevention and control practice.

## Emerging challenges in infection prevention and control and infectious diseases – an international perspective

Antimicrobial resistance has become a key challenge in health care due to spread of resistance genes between bacterial species, increasing pressures as a result of antibiotic overuse, lack of resources/knowledge/infrastructure to aid health care practice and infection prevention and control in low and middle income countries and global trade and travel. The unpredictability of outbreaks, many of a zoonotic nature has also added to these global challenges and we all need to be aware of this international perspective to infection prevention and control and infectious diseases wherever we live and work.

### Antibiotic/Antimicrobial stewardship/guardian

**Antimicrobial stewardship** – NICE published guidance (August 2015) on this important topic. Antimicrobial Stewardship: Systems and Processes for Effective Antimicrobial Medicine Use aims to change prescribing practice to help slow the emergence of antimicrobial resistance and ensure that antimicrobials remain an effective treatment for infection.

[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng15](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng15)

The *Antibiotic Guardians Campaign* was launched in September by Public Health England (PHE) as part of the activities to support European Antibiotic Awareness Day. Its aim is to encourage more people, public and professionals, to make pledges to help save our antibiotics.

For more information on the campaign go to: <http://antibioticguardian.com/keep-antibiotics-working/>

To sign up for the campaign visit: <http://antibioticguardian.com>

### Keep Antibiotics Working

In October 2017, Public Health England launched a new campaign aimed at the public to keep antibiotics working. Follow the link for more information: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/58-keep-antibiotics-working>

International collaboration and communication between health care establishments, organisations and the general public has never been more important when dealing with these emerging challenges and for more information on antibiotic/antimicrobial resistance and novel infections. Three awareness raising calendar events occur in Europe and internationally to support infection prevention and control and antibiotic stewardship. These are:

- International Infection prevention Week (IIPW) – this is hosted by the Association of Practitioners in Infection Control (APIC) in the US and runs every year in the third week in October.
- World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) – organised by the World Health Organization. This coincides with European Antibiotic Awareness Day and is held in November each year. See the WHO antimicrobial resistance page for more information on calendar events at: [www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/en](http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/en)
- European Antibiotic Awareness day – held on 18 November every year. Organised by The European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC), it provides a focal point for European activity on AMR. More information can be found at: <https://antibiotic.ecdc.europa.eu/en>

See **Appendix 1**.

**Appendix 2** provides links to Global Networks which provide international guidance and also help to promote and support the evidence base in infection prevention and control globally.

## A UK perspective on useful websites

### England

Following changes to the NHS in 2013 both Public Health England and the Department of Health websites now sit within the 'gov.uk' umbrella website. See below for specific information relating to infection prevention and control.

**Department of Health (England)** [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health) The Department of Health (DH) leads, shapes and funds health care in England. Amongst the information it provides, the following link may be of interest: [www.gov.uk/search?q=infection+prevention+and+control](http://www.gov.uk/search?q=infection+prevention+and+control)

**Public Health England (PHE)** [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england) Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services.

PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health that carries out surveillance and epidemiology services across England. The fingertips website hosted by PHE collates information on antimicrobial resistance, infection prevention and healthcare associated infection (HCAI) which it displays in a variety of views including local and regional. Fingertips can be accessed at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/amr-local-indicators>

Public Health England has published *All Our Health?* framework which is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/all-our-health-personalised-care-and-population-health](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/all-our-health-personalised-care-and-population-health)

**NHS England** [www.england.nhs.uk](http://www.england.nhs.uk) NHS England leads the National Health Service (NHS) in England. It sets the priorities and direction of the NHS and encourages and informs the national debate to improve health and care.

Infection prevention and control is included within the NHS Outcomes Framework of 5

Domains Resources. Domain 5 'Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm.' <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nhs>

**NHS Improvement** NHS Improvement is responsible for delivering the ambition to reduce by half health care acquired gram negative blood stream infections by 2020. A series of resources have been produced and are available at: <https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/preventing-gram-negative-bloodstream-infections/>

**Health Education England (HEE)** <https://hee.nhs.uk> Health Education England plan and commission the NHS workforce (doctors, nurses and allied health professionals) in England to support the delivery of safe and effective care. It is also responsible for the education and training of the health care workforce.

**Care Quality Commission (CQC)** [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk) The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of all health and social care in England. Its aim is to make sure better care is provided for everyone, whether that's in hospital, in care homes, in people's own homes, or elsewhere.

The CQC provides information to support health and social care organisations' compliance with the essential standards which include cleanliness and infection control. Information on the essential fundamental standards can be found at: [www.cqc.org.uk/content/fundamental-standards](http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/fundamental-standards)

Provider handbooks explain what CQC look for when they inspect and also set out how they regulate services. The handbooks describe how CQC register providers, carry out inspections, publish ratings and take enforcement action. There are separate handbooks for each of the sectors CQC regulate and provide useful information on infection prevention and control and safety standards included. [www.cqc.org.uk/content/provider-handbooks](http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/provider-handbooks)

**National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)** [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk) NICE is an independent organisation responsible for providing national evidence based guidance on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health. Several documents relating to infection prevention and control have been

published by NICE. See Infection prevention and control [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs61](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs61)

**NICE Evidence** [www.evidence.nhs.uk](http://www.evidence.nhs.uk) NHS Evidence is a service that enables access to authoritative clinical and non-clinical evidence and best practice through a web-based portal. It helps people from across the UK, public health and social care sectors to make better decisions.

### Scotland

**Health Protection Scotland (HPS)** [www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/index.aspx](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/index.aspx) HPS was established by the Scottish Government in 2005 to strengthen and co-ordinate health protection in Scotland.

The HPS produces model infection control policies – example action plans written to a high standard – to guide those wishing to develop, refine or compare their own policies, with a view to encouraging standardisation of policy across Scotland.

These policies are not mandatory but are intended to provide a common, evidence-based approach to infection control. [www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/haic/ic/modelinfectioncontrolpolicies.aspx](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/haic/ic/modelinfectioncontrolpolicies.aspx)

**Healthcare Improvement Scotland (includes Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (HEI))** [www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Quality-Improvement-Performance/HealthCareImprovementScotland](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Quality-Improvement-Performance/HealthCareImprovementScotland) Healthcare Improvement Scotland is a health body formed in 2011 and marks changes in the way the quality of health care across Scotland will be supported nationally.

The organisation has the focus and key responsibility to help NHS Scotland and independent health care providers deliver high quality, evidence based, safe, effective and person-centred care; to scrutinise services to provide public assurance about the quality and safety of care. This builds on work previously done by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland and the Care Commission.

**NHS Education for Scotland (NES)** [www.nes.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk) This is NHS Scotland's education and training body. They provide a number of resources to support education on IPC.

### Wales

**Public Health Wales** [www.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.wales.nhs.uk) Public Health Wales is an NHS organisation providing an expert public health resource, health advice and services to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Wales.

Healthcare associated infection in Wales: [www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?orgid=379](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?orgid=379)

**National Infection Control Policies for Wales** [www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=379&pid=38960](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=379&pid=38960)

### Northern Ireland

**The Regional Infection Prevention and Control Manual for Northern Ireland**

The manual can be found at: <http://niinfectioncontrolmanual.net>

If you are a health care worker you have a responsibility to prevent infections in your patients. This manual provides guidance on best practice.

### HSC Public Health Agency

The Public Health Agency is a multidisciplinary, multi-professional body with a strong regional and local presence. It has four key functions:

- health and social wellbeing improvement
- health protection
- public health support to commissioning and policy development
- HSC research and development. For further information please visit: [www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)

## General websites of interest

### International Resource for Infection Control (iNRIC)

[www.nric.org.uk](http://www.nric.org.uk)

The International Resource for Infection Control (iNRIC) brings together the best available online evidence-based, quality-tagged resources on infection prevention and control. It provides a one-stop shop for infection prevention and control guidance and is easily navigated as information can be viewed under country, types of practice such as hand hygiene (cleaning, decontamination), settings (community, care homes, hospital, prison) and organisms (MRSA, *C. difficile*).

Global collaboration and communication has increased in the important fight against infection prevention and control and infectious diseases. Collaboration with colleagues in this specialist field has developed and a wider range of international guidelines and documents have been added to the digital library.

The website aimed at infection prevention and control professionals, trainees and all health care staff who require up-to-date evidence-based information in infection prevention and control and the infectious disease domain remains freely available to all.

### Health Facilities (formerly Space for Health)

As a consequence of central government's drive in England to provide as much web-based information as possible via its .gov.uk website, the decision was made by the UK Health Organisations' Policy Steering Group to close Space for Health.

From April 2013 all guidance and other material normally accessed via Space for Health was made available on the individual websites of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These websites may require using the search facility to find relevant documents and costs may be incurred.

**England.** A complete list of NHS related guidance: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/complete-list-of-nhs-estates-related-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complete-list-of-nhs-estates-related-guidance)

**Northern Ireland:** [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications)

Health Estates provides the policy lead within the DHSSPS for estate matters in the health and social care sector and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. Health Estates, along with the Investment Directorate, form the Health Estates Investment Group and is the single body in Northern Ireland with recognised expertise in all aspects of health and social care and public safety estate management.

**Scotland:** [www.hfs.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.hfs.scot.nhs.uk)

Health Facilities Scotland is a division of National Services Scotland and provides operational guidance to BHS Scotland bodies on a range of health care facilities topics.

**Wales:** [www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=254&pid=13646](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=254&pid=13646)

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership - Specialist Estates Services promotes health estate guidance, data and information, ensuring it is relevant, up to date and appropriate for the specific needs of the NHS in Wales. Guidance, data and information are disseminated through the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership - Specialist Estates Services intranet website.

### e-Bug

[www.e-bug.eu](http://www.e-bug.eu)

The e-Bug website allows you to play games and learn all about micro-organisms, hygiene and antibiotic use. It is aimed at children in two age groups – junior and senior students – but also provides a useful training tool.

**World Health Organization (WHO)**

[www.who.int/en](http://www.who.int/en)

WHO is the directing and co-ordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

**The Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit (WHO)**

[www.who.int/gpsc/ipc/en](http://www.who.int/gpsc/ipc/en)

A new approach to strengthening national and international IPC capacity, improving practices and changing behaviour for safer, high quality patient care. Guidelines published in 2016 include Surgical Site Infection Prevention and Core components of Infection Prevention and Control programmes at national and acute level.

[www.who.int/gpsc/ssi-prevention-guidelines/en](http://www.who.int/gpsc/ssi-prevention-guidelines/en)

**European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**

<http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/Pages/home.aspx>

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) was established in 2005 to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases. Based in Stockholm, the ECDC's mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases. In order to achieve this mission, the ECDC works in partnership with national health protection bodies across Europe to strengthen and develop continent-wide disease surveillance and early warning systems.

**Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)**

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency regulates medicines, medical devices and blood components for transfusion in the UK.

MHRA is an executive agency sponsored by the Department of Health.

**The British Thoracic Society**

[www.brit-thoracic.org.uk](http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk)

The British Thoracic Society (BTS) exists to improve standards of care for people who have respiratory diseases and to support and develop those who provide that care.

**British HIV Association**

[www.bhiva.org](http://www.bhiva.org)

BHIVA acts as a national advisory body to professions and other organisations on all aspects of HIV care. The BHIVA provides a national platform for HIV care and contributes representatives for international, national and local committees dealing with HIV care. It also works to promote undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education within HIV care.

**National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC)**

[www.nathnac.org](http://www.nathnac.org)

The National Travel Health Network and Centre was created to promote clinical standards in travel medicine with the broad goal of protecting the health of British travellers. This is achieved by improving the quality of travel health advice available to GP practices, other health care providers and the public.

NaTHNaC is commissioned by Public Health England.

Information on travel health can be found by accessing Travel Health Pro directly through: [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk) or via NaTHNaC.

### **NHS Improving Quality (formerly NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement)**

[www.england.nhs.uk](http://www.england.nhs.uk)

NHS IQ has transferred into NHS England as its Sustainable Improvement Team. The Sustainable Improvement Team supports the health system by providing improvement and change expertise which supports NHS England's business plan and urgent in-year priorities.

### **The British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC)**

[www.bsac.org.uk](http://www.bsac.org.uk)

At the forefront of the antimicrobial chemotherapy field, the society sets standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing and use, both within the UK and overseas. It supports microbiologists in their practice and the promotion and provision of channels through which its members can ensure their continuing professional development.

### **International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC)**

<http://theifc.org>

IFIC is an umbrella organisation of societies and associations of health care professionals in infection control and related fields worldwide. The goal of IFIC is to minimise the risk of infection within the health care setting world wide through development of IC organisations for communication, consensus building, education and sharing expertise.

### **Association of Healthcare Cleaning Professionals (AHCP)**

[www.ahcp.co.uk](http://www.ahcp.co.uk)

The AHCP is a non-profit, non-governmental association whose members are located throughout the British Isles and are cleaning professionals working within or affiliated to health care cleaning. They aim to help members to provide a service committed to excellence and cost effectiveness, as well as to promote and develop measurable standards of service, responsive to changing needs of clients.

### **European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID)**

[www.espid.org/default.aspx](http://www.espid.org/default.aspx)

ESPID is a professional society which provides members with a forum to share and discuss paediatric infectious diseases and best practice. It aims to promote best practice in paediatric infectious disease management and child health.

### **Institute of Decontamination Sciences**

[www.idsc-uk.co.uk](http://www.idsc-uk.co.uk)

The IDSc is a professional body committed in ensuring the provision of competent staff that can meet the technical and operational challenges of medical device decontamination.

### **European Network to Promote Infection Prevention for Patient Safety (EUNETIPS)**

[www.eunetips.eu](http://www.eunetips.eu)

EUNETIPS is a network of professional and scientific organisations who share a common purpose support infection prevention control and the reduction of antimicrobial resistance. They work collaboratively within, and at, European level. The RCN is a core member of the network.

# Appendix 1

## Additional information on current and emerging challenges for prevention and control of health care associated infection and infectious diseases

### Antibiotic resistance/antimicrobial resistance

“Antibiotic resistance refers specifically to the resistance to antibiotics that occurs in common bacteria that cause infections. Antimicrobial resistance is a broader term, encompassing resistance to drugs to treat infections caused by other microbes as well, such as parasites (eg, malaria), viruses (eg, HIV) and fungi (eg, Candida)” (WHO definition).

Useful references:

- Antimicrobial resistance: RCN position on the nursing contribution (currently under review): [www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-004681](http://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-004681)
- Chief Medical Officer’s (CMO) UK Strategy on AMR (due for update in 2018): [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications)
- WHO Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance: [www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/global-action-plan/en](http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/global-action-plan/en)
- Department of Health: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): [www.gov.uk/government/collections/antimicrobial-resistance-amr-information-and-resources](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/antimicrobial-resistance-amr-information-and-resources)
- PHE: [www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety](http://www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety)
- Antimicrobial resistance: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/antimicrobial-resistance-amr-information-and-resources](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/antimicrobial-resistance-amr-information-and-resources)
- Antimicrobial resistance: [www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en)
- Antibiotic/Antimicrobial resistance: [www.cdc.gov/drugresistance](http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance)
- Antimicrobial resistance: [www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/antimicrobialresistance/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/antimicrobialresistance/Pages/default.aspx)
- Review on antimicrobial resistance: <http://amr-review.org>
- The Antibiotic Awareness Campaign: [www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/ARC/Pages/AboutARC.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/ARC/Pages/AboutARC.aspx)
- Understanding antimicrobial (Drug) resistance: [www.niaid.nih.gov/research/antimicrobial-resistance-understanding](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/antimicrobial-resistance-understanding)
- Guidance on antimicrobial stewardship: [http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/Healthcare-associated\\_infections/guidance-infection-prevention-control/Pages/guidance-antimicrobial-stewardship.aspx](http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/Healthcare-associated_infections/guidance-infection-prevention-control/Pages/guidance-antimicrobial-stewardship.aspx)
- Gram negative bacteria: [www.niaid.nih.gov/research/gram-negative-bacteria](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/gram-negative-bacteria)
- Directory of guidance on prevention and control of Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, published by ECDC, EU/EEA Member States, international and national agencies and professional societies (April 2015): [http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/Healthcare-associated\\_infections/guidance-infection-prevention-control/Pages/guidance-prevention-control-infections-CRE.aspx](http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/Healthcare-associated_infections/guidance-infection-prevention-control/Pages/guidance-prevention-control-infections-CRE.aspx)
- WHO top threats: [www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/bacteria-antibiotics-needed/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/bacteria-antibiotics-needed/en/)

### Novel infections

Novel infectious diseases in humans invariably from zoonotic sources appear as mainly sporadic infections with restricted outbreaks eg, influenza A(H5N1) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). Ebola/Marburg haemorrhagic fevers are rare diseases, but have the potential to cause high death rates.

Human to human transmission requires the disease to adapt and/or hygiene and healthcare facilities to be poor if it is to establish itself, cross the species barrier and sustain this human to human transmission.



## Useful references:

- Guidance, resources and information for professionals about Ebola virus disease, a severe viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF): [www.gov.uk/government/collections/ebola-virus-disease-clinical-management-and-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ebola-virus-disease-clinical-management-and-guidance)
- Zoonotic diseases (zoonoses): guidance, data and analysis: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/zoonotic-diseases-zoonoses-guidance-data-and-analysis](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/zoonotic-diseases-zoonoses-guidance-data-and-analysis)
- The National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID): [www.cdc.gov/ncezid](http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid)
- Innovative Technologies 2015: [www.cdc.gov/ncezid/pdf/innovative-technology-2015.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/pdf/innovative-technology-2015.pdf)
- Emerging and Infectious Diseases: [www.cdc.gov/ncezid/pdf/ncezid\\_brochure\\_2012.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/pdf/ncezid_brochure_2012.pdf)
- Generating Evidence for Infectious Diseases with Epidemic Potential – Meeting Report 2015: [www.who.int/medicines/ebola-treatment/meetings/MeetingReport\\_GEIDEP.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/medicines/ebola-treatment/meetings/MeetingReport_GEIDEP.pdf?ua=1)
- Ebola Virus Disease: [www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/)
- Coronaviruses: [www.who.int/topics/coronavirus\\_infections/en](http://www.who.int/topics/coronavirus_infections/en)
- Ebola/Marburg Haemorrhagic Virus: [http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/ebola\\_marburg\\_fever/pages/index.aspx](http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/ebola_marburg_fever/pages/index.aspx)
- Zika virus: [www.gov.uk/guidance/zika-virus](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/zika-virus)
- Responsible use of medicines in animals (RUMA): [www.ruma.org.uk](http://www.ruma.org.uk)
- Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD): [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-medicines-directorate](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-medicines-directorate)
- Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA): [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs)
- Bella Moss Foundation: [www.thebellamossfoundation.com](http://www.thebellamossfoundation.com)

## Appendix 2

### Global Infection Prevention and Control Networks

Royal College of Nursing (RCN):  
[www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control](http://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control)

Infection Prevention Society (IPS):  
[www.ips.uk.net](http://www.ips.uk.net)

Healthcare Infection Society:  
[www.his.org.uk](http://www.his.org.uk)

The International Forum on Home Hygiene:  
[www.ifh-homehygiene.org](http://www.ifh-homehygiene.org)

The International Federation of Infection Control: <http://theific.org>

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC): <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/Pages/home.aspx>

World Health Organisation (WHO):  
[www.who.int/en](http://www.who.int/en)

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC): <http://professionals.site.apic.org>

Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC):  
<http://ipac-canada.org>

Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN):  
[www.icanetwork.co.za](http://www.icanetwork.co.za) Education:  
[www.icanetwork.co.za/education](http://www.icanetwork.co.za/education) Projects:  
[www.icanetwork.co.za/projects](http://www.icanetwork.co.za/projects)

National African Societies: [www.icanetwork.co.za/about/national-african-societies](http://www.icanetwork.co.za/about/national-african-societies)

The Federation of Infectious Diseases Societies of Southern Africa (FIDSSA): [www.fidssa.co.za](http://www.fidssa.co.za)

WHO – African Partnerships for Patient Safety (Home): [www.who.int/patientsafety/implementation/apps/en](http://www.who.int/patientsafety/implementation/apps/en)

Infection Prevention Australia (IPA): <http://infectionprevention.com.au>

Australasian Society for Infectious Disease:  
[www.asid.net.au](http://www.asid.net.au)

The Infection Prevention & Control Nurses College (IPCNC): [www.infectioncontrol.co.nz/home](http://www.infectioncontrol.co.nz/home)

The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene: <https://rstmh.org>

# References

Davies S C (2013) *Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, Volume Two*, 2011, Infections and the rise of antimicrobial resistance, London: Department of Health. Available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/chief-medical-officer-annual-report-volume-2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chief-medical-officer-annual-report-volume-2)

The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes  
excellence in practice and shapes health policies

RCN Online  
[www.rcn.org.uk](http://www.rcn.org.uk)

RCN Direct  
[www.rcn.org.uk/direct](http://www.rcn.org.uk/direct)  
0345 772 6100

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