



St. Helens Council

INFECTION CONTROL NEWS FOR THE DENTAL TEAM

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The Dental antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit

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The inappropriate use of antibiotics as we know is related to bacterial resistance. Responsible use of antimicrobials should help control it. The dental antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) toolkit and information for patients for primary care has been developed in collaboration between the Dental Sub-group of Public Health England's English surveillance programme for antimicrobial utilisation and resistance (ESPAUR), Faculty of General Dental Practice (FGDP) and British Dental Association (BDA).

The toolkit aims to influence prescribers and patients attitudes to enable optimal antibiotic prescribing.

An independent review of antimicrobial resistance, the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Review commissioned by the UK Government in 2014 and chaired by Lord Jim O'Neill, analysed the global impact and estimates that a failure to address the problem of antibiotic resistance could result in: 10 million deaths every year

globally by 2050 and a cost of £66 trillion (\$100 trillion) to the global economy.

All practices should be completing the AMS tool kit as it will contribute to dental surgeries and practitioners demonstrating compliance with the Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance.

The toolkit also supports recommendations made in the NICE guideline NG15 Antimicrobial stewardship: systems and processes for effective antimicrobial medicine use.

Antimicrobial resistance poses a catastrophic threat. If we don't act now, any one of us could go into hospital in 20 years for minor surgery and die because of an ordinary infection that can't be treated by antibiotics."

Chief Medical Officer March 2013

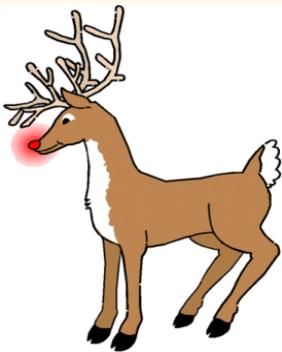
Access to the audit tool & further information can be obtained from:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dental-antimicrobial-stewardship-toolkit>



Did you know:

Norwegian scientists have hypothesized that Rudolph's red nose is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system.

**Hepatitis B vaccination shortage : guidance for dental staff**

As you may be aware there is a global shortage of hepatitis B vaccine which is currently impacting severely on the UK supply, a situation that is likely to continue until early 2018. To ensure that stock is available for those individuals at highest and most immediate risk of exposure to hepatitis B (this includes those who require post exposure prophylaxis following an occupational exposure and includes dental nurses should they suffer a sharps injury) during the period of constraint, Public Health England (PHE) has developed temporary recommendations to support clinicians undertaking an individual risk assessment.

Most dentists and hygienist-therapists will have been fully vaccinated during training and then tested to confirm response to the primary course. Those who commenced work as vocational trainees (VTs) in August may be due a routine booster (normally given around five years after the primary course). The benefit of this booster in known responders to vaccination is small, and therefore it can be safely deferred until early 2018. Not having received the booster should not be a barrier to ongoing work involving exposure prone procedures.

Dentists and hygienist-therapists coming from non UK universities, if not already vaccinated, should be offered pre-exposure vaccination as per PHE temporary recommendations. Vaccination and serology history, and where appropriate anti-HBs levels, should be checked, to avoid unnecessary vaccine use.

Implications for dental nurses

During the ongoing period of temporary recommendations, this staff group is considered a lower priority. Although dental nurses are normally eligible for vaccination, because of the potential for infection through their chairside assistance and instrument decontamination duties, they do not pose a threat of onward transmission to patients.

Access to Occupational Health Services at Aintree University Hospital, Liverpool

A limited FREE service in conjunction with NHS England is being provided for all dental practices for blood borne viruses advice, inoculation injuries and Hep B vaccinations . Other services regarding occupation health are not included. However, the occupational health service would provide for a charge. **A drop in clinic is available Mon– Fri 8.30am-9.00 am & 4.00-4.30pm.** Out of these times if urgent advice required you are advised to phone first. Non urgent enquiries it is advised to email in the first instance. **Contact details: Diane Lee Tel: 0151 529 6607. Address : Aintree Hospital, Lower Lane, Liverpool L9 7AL. Email: www.aintreeworkandwell-being.nhs.uk.**

Implications for dental nurses cont'd

A reversion to the practice of making hepatitis B vaccine available to dental nurses for their own protection will occur when vaccine supplies resume. If a dental nurse has to defer their hepatitis B vaccine, they should be managed in the same way as a dental healthcare worker who is a non-responder to the hepatitis B vaccine that is:

- discuss with the dental nurse the risks of infection from BBVs, in particular that hepatitis B is the most infectious agent and that temporarily the highly effective vaccine is not available
- consider the effectiveness of the other controls in place, and consider whether any additional controls should be implemented to allow them to work safely
- ensure that the dental nurse is made aware of the importance of standard infection control procedures and, in particular, procedures for prevention of sharps injuries
- ensure that the dental nurse is aware of the practice policy for managing sharps injuries.

Regardless of the employee's vaccination status, AFTER an exposure incident, follows your local procedures to ensure that a timely risk assessment for all BBVs is undertaken, and vaccination and/or immunoglobulin offered (if appropriate). Hepatitis B vaccine will be made available for such incidents on the basis of an individual risk assessment.

Access to the guidance & further information can be obtained from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hepatitis-b-vaccine-advice-for-dental-professionals>



Healthwatch England: Their work on dentistry

Healthwatch England have recently published in their annual report a focus on access to NHS dental services. Healthwatch organisations across West Yorkshire are working in partnership with the Chief Dental Officer, NHS England, Public Health England and the General Dental Council that is exploring better use of NICE guidelines in NHS dentistry.

The project aims to help more people access an NHS dentist. Changes have taken place to improve the accuracy on the NHS Choices website so that practices data is up to date. Also Healthwatch are collecting information on dental provision for care home residents.

1 in 5 (19%) of the people Healthwatch polled in early 2016 found they could not get an NHS appointment within a reasonable timeframe. Posing risk of developing tooth problems that could have been resolved if a check-up had been provided. Making a difference their report, Access to NHS Dental Services, published looks at the experiences people shared with local Healthwatch, and identified three areas requiring particular attention. The report also highlighted the work local Healthwatch are doing to help address the issues people have shared with them.

Common issues people shared

1. In some parts of the country, people still have trouble getting appointments with NHS dentists. There are gaps in provision for particular groups, such as people in care homes, people with disabilities, refugees and people who are homeless. 2. Mixed information about how frequently people should go to the dentist means that some could be going too often and others not enough. 3. Some dental practices are not sharing adequate information about how people can make a complaint, meaning that opportunities to improve are being missed.

Further reading: http://www.healthwatch.co.uk/sites/healthwatch.co.uk/files/20171101_-_healthwatch_england_annual_report_2016-17_-_speak_up.pdf



SELF – AUDITS: Reminder

When sending in self-audits please can you also include any generated action plans.

THANK YOU



Annual Infection Control

Statement: Please keep a check when due . All statements are to be forwarded to Karen Jones.



INFECTION CONTROL LEAD NURSE FORUM GROUP MEETINGS- DATES FOR 2018

NEW VENUE *Newton Community Hospital, Meeting room, ground Floor, Bradleigh road, Newton le Willows, WA12 8RB*

Thursday 15th March 2018 – 6-7.30pm

Thursday 14th June 2018 – 6-7.30pm

Thursday 13th September 2018 – 6-7.30pm

Thursday 6th December 2018 – 6-7.30pm

NEW VENUE/ DAY *The Dental Academy, Daresbury, Warrington
WA4 5LR*

Wednesday 21st March 2018 – 6-7.30pm

Wednesday 20th June 2018 – 6-7.30pm

Wednesday 19th September 2018 6-7.30pm

Wednesday 12th December 2018 6-7.30pm



If you would like to join our dental forum group on Facebook please contact Karen (details on back page.)

EMAIL COMMUNICATION WE NEED YOU!!!!

Have you notified us of your most up to date email address for your practice?

If not , please can you get in touch so we can ensure you receive all our communication speedily.

Contact details

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INFECT ION C O N T R O L T R A I N I N G

Would your practice like some infection control training?

If so please get in touch (see contact details above). I will come to your practice when suits you to deliver infection control training . It can be tailored to suit your training needs. It will also be verifiable CPD!



Are you thinking of refurbishing at your practice? Surgeries, general environment or installing a local decontamination unit (LDU) ? Then please get in touch and we can provide you with professional advice regarding infection control measures you will need to consider.