

Infection Prevention and Control

What are we doing to prevent infection?

You are in safe hands

Our Trust has an excellent track record of keeping infection levels down. We have some of the lowest rates of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) for Trusts of our size.

To keep infection rates low in our Trust:

- All clinical staff within UHCW complete education on infection prevention and control every year.
- Our infection prevention best practice is underpinned by evidence-based guidelines.
- We assess compliance to these guidelines through audit programmes.

Reducing your risk of infection

The risk of acquiring an infection whilst receiving care within the Trust is very low. Stories of MRSA or Clostridium difficile (C. Diff) bacteria labelled as 'superbugs' are often in newspapers. These stories can cause anxiety for people coming into hospital.

MRSA and C. Diff bacteria can live harmlessly in the community. In situations where people are in close contact, they may cause illness and spread easily. We aim to prevent these avoidable infections.



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What we do to prevent infection

- We have a dedicated team who specialise in infection prevention and control.
- We have robust policies and guidelines in place to reduce the risk of patients contracting infections whilst in one of our hospitals.
- We provide hand gel dispensers at the entrance to every ward and department for everyone to use. We also have 8,000 hand wash basins throughout the Trust.
- We provide personal protective equipment (PPE). We train staff to wear PPE when carrying out specific duties or direct patient care.
- We conduct routine tests for MRSA and other infections.
- We have a comprehensive assessment scheme to check wards against rigorous infection prevention and control standards.
- We closely monitor our infection rates every day.
- We have a detailed ward cleaning programme. This includes thoroughly cleaning each bed space before a new patient is admitted to it.
- Overuse of antibiotics can suppress the immune system. This can leave it more susceptible to some organisms. UHCW have an Antimicrobial Pharmacist whose role is to:
 - advise doctors on the use of antibiotics
 - track antibiotic usage to prevent their overuse

How you can help us to prevent infection

- Your bed space should have an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) dispenser, for staff, patients, and visitors to use. If the dispenser is missing or empty, please inform your nurse so that we can replace it.
- If you're bed-bound for a while, it's useful to have some moist hand wipes and ABHR close by. This is so you can clean your hands when you need to; please ask your nurse to ensure you can reach your ABHR dispenser.
- Always clean your hands after using bathroom or toilet facilities. Don't be afraid to ask staff to help you clean your hands if you can't do it yourself.
- Use tissues to blow your nose or to cough into. Use them once, and then dispose of them in the waste bag or bin. Then wash your hands.
- Keep yourself as clean as possible. Take personal toiletries and a towel into hospital with you. It's best to use a pump-dispensed soap. Whatever

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you use, always remember to bring it back from the wash/bathroom so no one else uses it.

- Bring your own shaving equipment into hospital.
- Always wear something on your feet around the ward or hospital. Outdoor shoes are best as it will be safer when walking.
- Keep the top of your locker and bedside table free from clutter so they can be cleaned easily.
- The area around your bed will be cleaned regularly. If you or your visitors see something missed during routine cleaning, tell a member of staff.
- If you visit the toilet or bathroom and find that it's not clean, do not use it. Report it to a member of staff immediately.
- If a member of staff needs to undertake a procedure or provide close care with you, do not be afraid to ask them if they've cleaned their hands.

How visitors can help us to prevent infection

- Encourage your visitors to wash their hands before and after visiting. They can also use the alcohol-based hand rub. This is available at your bed space, at the entrance to wards, in bays, and in corridors across the hospital.
 - If you or your visitors notice an ABHR dispenser is empty, please tell a member of staff so we can refill it.
- Ask your visitors to stay away if they're feeling unwell.
- Keep to the visiting times when possible. This gives staff time to clean properly and ensures privacy for other patients.
- Ask your visitors to refrain from sitting on beds. Ask staff where to find visitor chairs to use.
- Always ask the nurse in charge before bringing children onto the ward. It's better that very young children do not visit. If they do visit, do not let them crawl on the floor or beds.

Patient Information

Infection Prevention and Control Team

If you have any concerns about infection risks or would like advice about a specific infection, the Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) are available.

The IPCT help staff with the prevention and management of all infections across the Trust.

You can contact them by telephone or by post:

Infection Prevention and Control Team

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

Clifford Bridge Road, Coventry CV2 2DX

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

024 7696 4791

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 5132 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

www.uhcv.nhs.uk/feedback



Document History

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