

QUARTER 3

Infection Prevention & Control Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1

Harriet and the Air Disinfection Study!

We are excited to bring you the latest updates, insights, and news from the Addenbrooke's Air Disinfection Study (AAirDS), championed by our very own Deputy Trust-wide Lead IPC Nurse Harriet. The AAirDS assessed the effectiveness of air cleaning systems in older adult mental health wards to reduce hospital-acquired infections (HAIs), staff sickness, and airborne disease outbreaks, including COVID-19. The study involved weekly stakeholder discussions with staff and service users, focusing on implementation, noise tolerance, and data collection before and after the intervention. Results showed that the air cleaning machines were well-tolerated at noise levels below 50 decibels. A significant reduction in outbreaks was observed, with 144 cases (spanning 24 days) recorded pre-study compared to 16 cases (over 4 outbreaks) during the study. Staff sickness also declined, leading to improved well-being and service quality. The study demonstrates that air cleaning systems are effective in reducing infections, enhancing patient safety, and improving healthcare services. Recommendations include expanding this approach to other mental health settings, increasing sample sizes, and further validating outcomes. The overarching theme is infection prevention and the fundamentals of care. Harriet also had the privilege to present at the Infection Prevention Society Conference!



Highlights from our recent Serious Incident!

We recently had a serious incident in which a patient who had scabies died on the ward. In order for the wider to collectively understand and learn from this recent case, the IPC team hosted a webinar on the management of scabies on the 23rd October 2024. The webinar covered, how to identify scabies, how to manage and treat the condition and the lessons learnt from the incident. Lessons included: Staff response was overcautious, the level of isolation not fully explored, the management plan not reviewed. The patient received good care and support on the ward but staff were unfamiliar with treating a patient for scabies in an inpatient ward setting. Going forward, management plans will include regular patient reviews by the Infection Protection and Control team at intervals. Overall, the webinar was attended by staff trust-wide who commented favourably.

Launch of the "Gloves Off" Campaign!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the project, "Gloves Off" which has currently been started in John Howard Centre and Tower Hamlets Centre for Mental Health, with the initiative being utilised during meal service. The glove awareness campaign is about sustainability and healthy glove use; glove use is the most single-use plastic item in healthcare, contributing to 4-5% of the UK's emissions. The aim is to reduce glove use on the wards by 50% by February 2024, by eliminating inappropriate wearing of gloves has been found to increase the risk of cross-contamination due to missed moments of hand hygiene.

What's Coming Up Next?

Upcoming Events

- Global Handwashing Day, 15th October
- International Infection Prevention Week, 13th - 19th October
- National Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) Day, 21st November
- World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week, 18th - 24th November
- Diarrhoea & Vomiting/Norovirus Link Champions Webinar, 4th December

Feel free to leave us feedback, and contact us via email at elft.infectioncontrol@nhs.net or on X @ELFTInfectionc1

Environmental Audit Compliance Scores

EVERGREEN UNIT ★ 100% ★
Luton Mental Health Services

1. Cedar House (Bedford MHS) - **99%**
2. Loxford Ward (Wolfson House) - **98%**
3. Mother & Baby Unit (C&H CfMH) - **97%**
4. Poplars Ward (Luton MHS) - **97%**
5. Tower Hamlets Continence Service - **97%**
6. Tower Hamlets Talking Therapies - **97%**

Common Themes in IPC

Overall cleanliness of the environment, increase of pests & rodents and lack of IPC awareness/knowledge.

We want to say a special well done to all the wards that are compliant, keep working hard, hopefully your ward will feature on our next issue!