

Care Home IPC Resource Toolkit

Version 7.0

27 April 2026

**Antimicrobial Resistance & Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI)
Scotland**

An NHS Scotland Assure Service

Version history

Version	Date	Summary of changes
V1.0	5 June 2024	Final Version
V2.0	23 January 2025	Scheduled reviewed and update
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Approvals

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Version	Date Approved	Group/Individual
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V7.0	27 April 2026	Abigail Mullings Care Home IPC (CH IPC) Programme Clinical Lead

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Introduction

The Care Home Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Resource Toolkit (known herein as 'the toolkit') has been produced by the Care Home IPC (CH IPC) team in ARHAI Scotland. The toolkit is a collection of care home related IPC guidance, resources and tools which can support local IPC adoption and implementation. The toolkit should be used in conjunction with the [Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(CH IPCM\)](#) and supporting resources. It is the Scottish Government expectation that the CH IPCM is adopted and implemented in all care homes in Scotland.

The toolkit contains a collection of key IPC related guidance, resources, and tools from ARHAI Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland (NES), Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) and other national and international organisations, with a focus on those most relevant to care home settings. It has been structured specifically to support care home staff easily identify key IPC materials. The content is not exhaustive and ARHAI Scotland are not responsible for any published tools and resources by external organisations within the toolkit.

1.0 Overview

The toolkit presents a variety of care home IPC resources and tools available nationally and internationally in a tabular form. The content is listed within the following categories:

- guidance materials
- communication and display
- implementation
- measurement
- training and education
- strategies

A short description of each resource and tools is included to assist individuals with decision making regarding suitability. The toolkit content will be reviewed regularly, and online access is advised to ensure the most up-to-date information is accessed at care home level.

2.0 Who is the toolkit for?

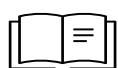
This toolkit is applicable for use in care homes in Scotland and can be used by care home staff, visitors, volunteers, and others responsible for IPC. Some resources and tools may be deemed more relevant for managers within care homes but overall, the materials have been selected to support the implementation and adoption of IPC practice to support safe care delivery.

3.0 How to use the toolkit

The toolkit has been structured to help individuals easily identify:

- the tool or resource name and year of issue
- organisation and author
- brief description
- hyperlinks to resources

Resource Tables



Guidance materials

Table 1: Guidance considered best practice for Scotland

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual (CH IPCM)		ARHAI Scotland	The CH IPCM is a practice guide for use in care homes. When used, it can help reduce the risk of infections and ensure the safety of residents, as well as staff and visitors in the care home environment.
A-Z of Pathogens NIPCM: National Infection Prevention and Control Manual		ARHAI Scotland	This resource provides an A-Z list of infection types and information about period of communicability (infectious period) and what precautions are required for each.
HAI Compendium	2026	ARHAI Scotland	Collection of useful resources related to IPC.
Safety Action Notice. MDR preparedness: DL(2024)32 -	6 January 2026	NHSScotland Assure	This safety action notice is an update of the obligations outlined in Directorate Letter

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
national adverse incident reporting and safety alert systems			DL(2024)32, 'Safety of Health, Social Care, Estates and Facilities Equipment: NHS Board and Local Authority Responsibilities', issued by Scottish Government on 16 December 2024.
Guidance for the public health management of acute respiratory infections (ARI) in community, social and residential care settings, v2.0	2 December 2025	PHS	This guidance aims to provide health protection teams (HPT) with a clear, concise, and accessible overview of the public health approach to prevention and management of acute respiratory infections (ARI) in community, social and residential care settings.
Safety Of Health, Social Care, Estates and Facilities Equipment: NHS Board and Local Authority Responsibilities (DL(2024)32)	16 December 2024	SG	This Directors Letter describes key roles and responsibilities, remit of relevant organisations and documentation to support the safe management of Health and Social Care Estates and Faculties Equipment and Devices. It

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
			supersedes CEL 43 (2009) and its addendum.
Guidance on prevention and control of Clostridioides difficile Infection (CDI) in community-based settings in Scotland	4 November 2024	PHS	<p>This guidance is for health protection professionals only and supports the community detection and management of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> infection (CDI) in Scotland. Community-based settings covered by this guidance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • care provided to individuals at home or other -non secondary care settings. • care homes • rehabilitation services • hospices • prisons
Medical Devices Regulations	17 May 2024	MHRA	Guidance on the regulations of medical devices and how to comply with the regulations as well as how to report non-compliances.

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Safe management of the care environment. (SHFN 01-05) Cleaning specification for care homes	May 2023	HFS	Guidance on how to manage and deliver cleaning within Scottish care homes. This guidance should be used in conjunction with the CH IPCM .
Management of Public Health Incidents	14 July 2020	PHS	This document describes the roles and responsibilities for those requested to attend an NHS led Incident Management Team
Animals in care settings. Infection prevention and control guidelines	23 October 2019	HPS	This guideline provides information for health or social care settings when considering bringing animals into the care setting.
National Guidance for safe management of linen in NHSScotland Health and Care Environments	28 May 2018	HPS, HFS, NSS	Guidance on the safe management of linen at all stages of laundering and includes additional guidance for domestic style laundries. This guidance can be used in conjunction with the CH IPCM .

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Accurate recording of deaths from healthcare associated infection and action	18 October 2011	SG	Guidance on the death certification system where a healthcare associated infection is indicated as the cause of death.



Communication and display

Table 2: Communication and display resources

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
COVID-19 and RSV vaccine eligibility infographic spring 2026	March 2026	PHS	Infographic providing information on spring 2026 COVID-19 and RSV vaccination eligibility.
Spring vaccine information sheet for care homes 2026	9 March 2026	PHS	Information sheet providing updates about the COVID-19 and RSV vaccination program for older adults.
Protect yourself against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	9 March 2026	PHS	Guide providing information on the RSV vaccine, offered to adults ages 74 years and over.
Good practice recommendations for antimicrobial use in frail older people	April 2024	SAPG	Provides recommendations for healthcare professionals on the safe, effective and rational use of antimicrobials including in care homes.
<i>Clostridioides difficile</i> infection: Information for people who are	2024	ARHAI Scotland	Information on <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> for people receiving care and their visitors.

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
getting care and their visitors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print version • Digital Version 			
Washing Clothes at home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print version • Digital version 	2024	ARHAI Scotland	Information leaflet for washing residents' clothing at home.
Open with care: supporting meaningful contact in adult care homes Easy read version	28 September 2022	SG	Visiting leaflet guidance setting out the key principles and expectations for care home providers, care home staff and visitors in relation to visiting adult care homes. It also contains tools and resources to support visiting in adult care homes.
My Health, My Care, My Home - healthcare framework for adults living in care homes	29 June 2022	SG	A framework providing a series of recommendations that aims to transform healthcare for people living in care homes.

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Antibiotics - Information Leaflet for staff in Care homes and Community Hospitals	March 2021	SAPG	Information leaflet for staff on antibiotic use in care homes.
Fluid-Resistant (Type) IIR Surgical Facemask	2020	ARHAI Scotland /NHS Lanarkshire	Poster guide on how to fit and wear fluid-resistant (type IIR) surgical face masks
Healthcare Associated infections. Information for the public. Easy Read Version	July 2019	HPS	Information leaflet for the public regarding healthcare associated infections (HAI) and what they can do to prevent them.
Keep antibiotics working poster	2019	SAPG/NES	Poster with 5 key messages for health and social care staff in Scotland on safe antimicrobial use.



Implementation

Table 3: Implementation materials

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Infection prevention and control for multidrug-resistant organisms in adult social care settings	5 January 2026	UKHSA	Guidance for staff and managers working in adult social care settings providing information on the principles of multidrug-resistant organisms and how to prevent their spread.
Evidence and research for CH IPCM content	Multiple	ARHAI Scotland	Evidence and research landing page of the NIPCM. Contains various literature reviews that underpin national IPC guidance.
Care home IPC resource for respiratory illness	2025	ARHAI Scotland	This resource provides care home staff with key IPC information to support the management of suspected and confirmed cases of respiratory illness of an infectious nature amongst residents. This resource should be used alongside the CH IPCM .

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Care Home IPC resource for gastro-intestinal illness	2025	ARHAI Scotland	This resource provides care home staff with key IPC information to support the management of suspected and confirmed residents with gastro-intestinal (GI) illness of an infectious nature. This resource should be used alongside the CH IPCM .
RCN Mouth Care during End-of-Life Care	May 2023	RCN/Care inspectorate hub	This resource can be used by the person receiving care, their relatives and those important to them, to help and support good mouth care at the end of life.
Preventing Infection in Social Care Settings		NES	IPC pocket guide for staff working and providing care in care homes and social care settings.
Decision aid for diagnosis and management of suspected UTI in people with indwelling catheters	January 2021	SAPG	Flowchart and guidance to support staff manage catheterised people with UTI.

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Decision aid for diagnosis and management of suspected UTI in people aged 65 years and over	March 2021	SAPG	Flow chart and guidance to help staff with management of UTI in people aged 65 years and over.
Management of suspected bacterial lower urinary tract infection in adult women	September 2020	SIGN	This guideline will be of interest to healthcare professionals in primary and secondary care, officers in charge of residential and care homes, antibiotic policy makers, clinical effectiveness leads and carers.
CPE Toolkit for non-acute settings	1 September 2017	HPS	Guidance on the early detection, management and control of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae in Scottish non-acute and community settings. The toolkit includes guidance, and information leaflets for those with CPE, contacts of those with CPE, and staff caring for individuals with CPE.

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Urinary Catheter care Passport	October 2017	HPS/SUTIN	Service user record of catheter insertion and care.
Preventing catheter associated urinary tract infections – Community Settings	September 2014	HPS	Best practice guide for preventing urinary tract infection in relation to insertion and maintenance of urinary catheters in line with the targeted literature review carried out by HPS which was updated in 2018. Can be used with the CAUTI bundle audit to monitor compliance.
Right Decision Service App – Antimicrobial Guidance	Multiple	SAPG	Digital application providing easy access to clinical guidance and supports decision making on antibiotic prescribing. Web version also available.



IPC Measurement

Table 4: IPC Measurement Support Resources

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Infection Prevention and Control Standards for health and social care settings	15 May 2022	HIS	IPC Standards for health and social care in Scotland.
Minimum requirements for infection prevention and control programmes	18 November 2019	WHO	The purpose of this document is to present and promote the minimum requirements for IPC programmes at the national and health care facility level, identified by expert consensus according to available evidence and in the context of the WHO core components.
National monitoring Framework	28 September 2018	HPS	The purpose of the framework is to provide a set of principles which will provide an organisational quality assurance of all Safe and Clean Care auditing and to establish a framework for audit which

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
			adds value to the process and supports a QI approach.
National Infection Prevention and Control Manual SICPs audit tools	2015	HPS	This data collection tool has been designed to support SICPs implementation at a local level. It can be used by all staff disciplines in any care environment.
Bundle for preventing urinary tract infections in community settings audit tool	2014	HPS/HIS	Improvement bundle audit tool for preventing catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI).



Training and education

Table 5: Training and education resources

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
Knowledge and Skills Framework on containing and controlling antimicrobial resistance	2025	NES, SAPG and Glasgow Caledonian University	The purpose of this education framework is to support knowledge and skills in antimicrobial resistance and stewardship. Raising awareness for health and social care staff and students in Scotland, and the need for coordinated action.
Digital and Data Capability Framework	2025	NES	Outlines the digital skills, knowledge and behaviours everyone needs to do their job and deliver safe and good quality care and support. The framework applies to the entire health and social care workforce in Scotland including social care and care and support providers.
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Zone	Multiple	NES	Various health and care resources for NHS healthcare staff. Hosted on TURAS, user login required.

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
My Learning	2025	SSSC	A smartphone-based app provided by SSSC to log learning activities.
Scottish Infection Prevention and Control Education Pathway (SIPCEP)		NES	Consists of various IPC modules which align with the CH IPCM. The foundation layer focuses on SICPs and provides an IPC refresher. Hosted on TURAS, user login required.
Raising awareness of antimicrobial stewardship for nurses and midwives (video)	2022	NES	Video raising awareness for nurses on the use of antibiotics.
Supporting older people to live active healthy lives	Multiple	NES	A learning programme for those working with older people to support active healthy lives.
WHO hand hygiene technical reference manual and training tools	2009	WHO	Hand hygiene resources, including posters and training materials.



IPC Strategies

Table 6: IPC Strategies

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
The Care Home Services (Visits to and by Care Home Residents) (Scotland) Regulations 2026: Anne's Law - code of practice 31 March 2026	23 March 2026	SG	'Anne's Law' describes a series of legal acts and regulations that give new duties to care homes to strengthen the rights of those who live in adult care homes to see and spend time with people important to them. This code of practice explains how these duties should work day-to-day.
Health and social care - surge and winter preparedness: national planning priorities and principles	13 November 2025	SG	This winter plan set out a consistent, person-centred framework for local systems and the national planning priorities and principles to support local health and care services in developing

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
			their own operational surge and winter preparedness plans.
Update on Indicators for Antibiotic Use (DL(2025)27)	11 December 2025	SG	Provides an update on the antibiotic indicators issued in 2023 and extended to 2024, reviewed and replaced for primary and secondary care in Scotland to support the delivery of the UK NAP targets.
2025-26 Winter Flu Vaccinations for Health & Social Care Staff	10 November 2025	SG	This directive provides information on winter flu vaccinations for health and social care staff, including surveillance and staff uptake and COVID-19 vaccine eligibility.
Further Update on Standards on Healthcare Associated Infections, (DL(2025)05)	27 March 2025	SG	Provides an update on the healthcare associated infection (HCAI) standards and antibiotic use indicators originally due to expire in 2022

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
			which were extended to 2024.
Care Reform (Scotland) Act 2025	2025	Scottish Parliament	This Act of the Scottish Parliament provides for the processing of health and social care information, the delivery and regulation of social care and connected purposes.
Confronting antimicrobial resistance 2024 to 2029	May 2024	HMG, WG, SG, DoHNI, DEARA.	This four-nations national action plan (NAP), builds on the achievements and lessons of the 2019-2024 action plan.
Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Strategy 2023-2025	19 June 2023	SG	The Scottish Government strategy for reducing HCAs in the recovery period following the COVID-19 pandemic.
Global strategy on infection prevention and control	12 September 2023	WHO	The WHO IPC strategy highlighting the central role of IPC in combating

Name of resource	Date	Organisation	Description
			antimicrobial resistance and in outbreak preparedness, readiness, and response.
Health and Social Care: national workforce strategy	11 March 2022	SG	The Scottish Government strategy for the health and social care workforce.
The Infection Prevention Workforce: Strategic Plan 2022-2024	15 December 2022	SG	The Scottish Government strategy for IPC workforce in all health and care settings.
The World Health Organization Guidelines on Core Components of IPC	1 November 2016	WHO	The WHO Guidelines on Core Components of IPC applicable for any country and suitable to local adaptation.

List of abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation or acronym	In full
AMR	Antimicrobial resistance
AMS	Antimicrobial stewardship
ARHAI Scotland	Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland
BSI	Blood stream infection
CAUTI	Catheter associated urinary tract infection
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
<i>C.difficile</i>	<i>Clostridioides difficile</i>
CI	Care Inspectorate
CPE	Carbapenemase-Producing Enterococci
CRO	Carbapenem resistant organism
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland
DoHNI	Department of Health Northern Ireland
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
FRSM	Fluid resistant surgical facemasks
GI	Gastrointestinal
HAI	Hospital acquired infection
HCAI	Healthcare associated infection
HFS	Health Facilities Scotland
HIS	Healthcare Improvement Scotland
HMG	His Majesties Government
HPS	Health Protection Scotland
HSC	Health and social care
IPC	Infection prevention and control
MDRO	Multi drug resistant organism

Abbreviation or acronym	In full
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
MRSA	Meticillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
NES	NHS Education for Scotland
NIPCM	National Infection Prevention and Control Manual
PPE	Personal protective equipment
RCN	Royal College of Nursing
RPE	Respiratory protective equipment
SAPG	Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group
SG	Scottish Government
SHPN	Scottish Health Protection Network
SICPs	Standard infection control precautions
SIGN	Scottish Intercollegiate guidelines Network
SIPCEP	Scottish Infection Prevention and Control Education Pathway
SSSC	Scottish Social Services Council
SUTIN	Scottish UTI Network
TBPs	Transmission based precautions.
UTI	Urinary tract infection
WHO	World Health Organization
WG	Welsh Government

Disclaimer

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No responsibility will be taken for any omissions or the content of the toolkit. Any questions regarding any of the guidance documents should be directed to the appropriate organisation.

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