

Information for patients

REDUCING THE RISK OF INFECTION IN HOSPITAL

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Preventing infection

150 years ago it was proven that hand washing could save lives. This remains the single most important factor in preventing the spread of infection.

All staff are expected to clean their hands between patients, either by washing at the sink or by using the hand sanitiser. If you have any concerns that this is not happening, please speak to the staff member concerned or the nurse in charge.

Hand sanitiser is another method of decontaminating hands if they are physically clean. It can be used several times in succession. It can be found at the bottom of every patient's bed and at the entrance of all wards, outside the lift areas and in other points of care around the hospital.

All staff in the Trust are trained in infection prevention and control and the impact their good practice has when combating infection.

What can visitors do?

Visitors to the hospital should follow these same basic rules, plus a few others listed below:

- ▶ Use the hand sanitiser before entering and when leaving the ward. Instructions on how to use it are clearly displayed, but please ask if you are unsure.
- ▶ Speak to the nurse-in-charge if you have any concerns about cleanliness or see an area that has become cluttered or unclean.
- ▶ Do not enter a side room until you have permission from the nurse responsible for that area, the patient in that room may be in there for infectious reasons.
- ▶ Do not visit if you are feeling unwell or have an infection such as 'flu', heavy cold, diarrhoea or vomiting.
- ▶ If you are unsure whether to visit, please telephone and check.

Staff preventing infection

We ask all staff with clinical responsibility to follow our infection prevention and control policies which include promotion of 'Bare below the elbow'. This means anyone that has contact with patients and the surrounding environment must:

- ▶ Wear short sleeves and comply with the Trust Dress Code with regard to wearing and laundering uniform/clothing worn for work.
- ▶ Remove wrist watches.
- ▶ Remove all jewellery from hands and wrists, apart from a plain wedding ring.
- ▶ Keep nails short and clean.
- ▶ Do not wear nail varnish or false nails of any kind.

Please feel free to ask staff if anything concerns you, or worries you, for example:

- ▶ If any member of staff fails to decontaminate their hand before and after contact with a patient or their surroundings, please ask them to stop and do so.
- ▶ If you visit any area that does not look clean especially a toilet or a bathroom, please inform a senior member of the clinical team.
- ▶ The area around each bed is cleaned regularly. If you see something that appears to have been missed, please report it to a senior member of the clinical team.

continued overleaf

