

ANNUAL INFECTION CONTROL STATEMENT – 2022 (Written April 2023)

Introduction

Granta Medical practices is committed to the control of infection within the building, ensuring safety for both patients and staff and in relation to the clinical procedures carried out within it.

This statement has been produced in line with the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and details the practice's compliance with guidelines on infection control and cleanliness between the dates of 1st January 2022 and 1st April 2023

Purpose

This annual statement will be generated each year in January in accordance with the requirements of The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance. It summarises:

- Any infection transmission incidents and any action taken (these will have been reported in accordance with our Significant Event procedure)
- Details of any infection control audits undertaken, and actions undertaken
- Details of any risk assessments undertaken for prevention and control of infection
- Details of staff training
- Reviews and update of policies, procedures and guidelines on infection prevention and control

Granta Medical Practices Infection Control Leads:

Clinical leads for infection control are Dr Tim Wright, GP & Nicole Spriggs, Lead Nurse

Non-clinical lead for infection control is Jerry Hutton, Facilities Manager.

Infection Control during 2022/23

After 2 years where Covid dominated our working practice, we entered the recovery phase, The past year has continued to have its challenges, restarting all services back to full capacity despite staff sickness levels being higher than Pre Covid

- We continue to have regular correspondence with our cleaning company to improve cleaning standards and these have had a positive effect but continues to be an area of high vigilance to ensure they are kept to a high standard.
- Spirometry is now fully operation and follows up to date Infection Control guidelines.
- There have been no cases of in-house infection transmission to report in the past year.
- All staff continued to be offered the flu vaccination.

- There were no sharps injuries to report over the past year. Sharps management has continued to be a target area as was highlighted as a potential infection control safety issue in previous audit– quarterly audits have been maintained. Further information in audit section.
- Decorating of sites has restarted after a 2Y delay due to Covid.
- In the Autumn/Winter 2022/23 with the increase in both Covid & respiratory viruses we reinstated masks to be worn by clinicians and encouraged patients also to wear at their discretion.
- The New National Standards of Cleanliness have been implemented and we have adopted the ICAT audit program which was recommended by the ICS.
- Resolving the issue of the need for an isolation room at Barley & M Hill, has proved very challenging due to insufficient clinical rooms being available. As a further measure Barley & Market Hill sites now have an isolation box stored in reception if required. Moving forward the plan is to look at an alternative site with the capacity to have a specialised isolation room.
- An isolation box is now available in reception at both M Hill & Barley for use as required.
- Monthly audits of FR2 rooms have been an ongoing challenge to complete – to meet the National Cleanliness guidelines a member of staff at each site has recently been appointed and they will be responsible to report monthly with results to Infection control lead.
- Sharps monitors have been introduced at all sites to improve Sharps management.
- As planned, we have improved our new staff induction process. A new Granta specific information pack has been written and introduced .This is in addition to the current E learning infection control modules which Clinicians complete annually and non-clinical staff biannually.
- An annual infection control, plan is now in place – this identifies areas requiring improvement and expected timescale to address. Going forward progress will be reviewed quarterly at the safety meeting.

Audits

- Quarterly audits were maintained over the year and discussed at our quarterly safety meeting. Infection control lead attended fortnightly Operations meeting to discuss and raise any infection control issues.
- Stand alone audits over past year included: Sharps Audit , cold chain breach , clostridium audit & management.

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- Sharps management was audited quarterly over the past year as previous audits had demonstrated failings within the clinical team to maintain both safety and infection control guidelines.
- Audits planned for this year are:
 1. Ongoing sharps audit
 2. Workstation cleanliness
 3. Monthly audits of FR2 room
 4. Continue quarterly audits of all sites.

Going forward

- In April Royston Health Centre merged with Granta Medical Practices and due to its old building, we are anticipating a significant workload to get it to the standard of the other sites.
- As planned in last year's audit – A study session on Sepsis is scheduled for clinicians at half day closure May 2023
- We will continue to maintain a high standard on Infection control at all sites.

Report written by Nicole Spriggs – IC Nurse Lead

Checked & ratified by Dr T Wright – IC GP lead

Further ratified by Operations Management Team