Highfield Surgery

Annual Statement on Compliance with Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

Reporting period: 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026
Location: Buckinghamshire
ICB: NHS Thames Valley Integrated Care Board

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1. Introduction

This annual statement has been prepared in accordance with the **Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance**. It relates to the infection prevention and control arrangements at **Highfield Surgery** and summarises how the practice has met its IPC responsibilities during the reporting period.

Highfield Surgery recognises the importance of effective infection prevention and control in protecting patients, staff, contractors, and visitors. The practice is committed to maintaining a safe clinical environment and continuously improving IPC standards.

This statement is signed off through the practice's internal governance process and is made available to patients, staff, and regulatory bodies, including the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Lead:
Laura Taylor / Dr Jill Deacon

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2. Infection Transmission Incidents

During the reporting period **no significant infection transmission incidents** attributable to Highfield Surgery were identified.

The practice has robust systems in place for:

- Reporting IPC-related incidents
- Reviewing significant events
- Implementing learning and improvement actions

Any minor IPC concerns identified during routine monitoring were addressed promptly, and no outbreaks or notifiable disease incidents requiring external escalation occurred.

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3. IPC Audits Undertaken and Actions Taken

An annual programme of infection prevention and control audits was completed, including:

- Hand hygiene compliance
- Aseptic technique/ use of invasive devices
- Cleaning and environmental cleanliness checks
- Clinical room infection control standards
- Waste segregation and disposal
- Vaccine cold-chain management (fridge temperature monitoring)

Outcome:
Audit findings demonstrated **good overall compliance** with IPC standards. Where small improvements were identified (e.g. documentation consistency or environmental arrangements), actions were implemented immediately and reviewed at subsequent checks.

Audit results are reviewed by the IPC Lead and shared with the clinical and administrative team as appropriate.

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4. Risk Assessments

The following IPC-related risk assessments were completed and reviewed during the reporting period:

- Legionella and water safety risk assessment
- Sharps and inoculation injury risk assessment
- Waste management and disposal arrangements
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) availability and usage

Actions Taken:
Identified risks were rated as low or controlled. Control measures remain in place and are reviewed regularly to ensure continued safety and compliance.

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5. Staff Training

Highfield Surgery ensures that all staff receive appropriate IPC training relevant to their role. During the reporting period:

- All new staff received IPC induction training
- Existing staff completed annual IPC updates
- Clinical staff maintained up-to-date training in standard infection control precautions

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Training compliance is monitored, and updates are delivered in line with national guidance and local requirements.

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6. IPC Policies, Procedures and Guidance

The practice maintains a comprehensive suite of IPC policies and procedures, including:

- Infection Prevention and Control Policy/SOP
- Hand Hygiene Policy
- Cleaning and Decontamination Policy
- Waste Management Policy
- Sharps Safety Policy

Policies were **reviewed and updated** during the reporting period to reflect current national guidance, including NHS England infection prevention standards. Staff are informed of changes, and policies are accessible within the practices' online system.

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7. Antimicrobial Prescribing and Stewardship

Highfield Surgery is committed to the responsible use of antimicrobials and supports national antimicrobial stewardship initiatives.

Actions include:

- Prescribing in line with NICE and UKHSA guidance
- Participation in local and national prescribing audits
- Review of antibiotic prescribing patterns
- Patient education on self-care and appropriate antibiotic use

Prescribing data is monitored and reviewed to support safe, effective, and evidence-based practice.

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8. Governance, Approval and Publication

This IPC Annual Statement has been reviewed and approved through the practice governance process.

Date approved: May 2026
Review date: March 2027

Reviewed May 2026

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The statement is:

- Published on the Highfield Surgery website
- Available on request to patients and regulatory bodies

Reviewed May 2026