

Board of Directors

Item 2.1

Subject: IPC BAF
Date of Meeting: 26th September 2023
Presented by: Dr Raphael Perry – Medical Director/DIPC
Purpose of Report: For Noting

BAF Reference	Impact on BAF
BAF 1	Assurance on IPC arrangements.

Level of assurance					
✓	Acceptable assurance Controls are suitably designed, with evidence of them being consistently applied and effective in practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partial assurance Controls are still maturing – evidence shows that further action is required to improve their effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low assurance Evidence indicates poor effectiveness of controls

1. Executive Summary

The Covid 19 pandemic led to a review of all IPC measures with strengthening of IPC processes. The monitoring of measures has been significantly intensified to help manage nosocomial out breaks in line with national guidance

NHSE has also developed a board assurance framework for IPC. The initial BAF was first presented at the May 2020 Board of Directors meeting and updates included at subsequent meetings.

IPC guidance has been sequentially revised and from November 2022 there was a substantial change to include all respiratory viruses.

A new BAF structure was introduced in 2023 to give wide ranging assurance on IPC processes.

2. Background

The Board of Directors receives a quarterly report and regular updates from the infection prevention and control team. This includes information on alert organisms, outbreaks, cleanliness standards and audit information.

NHS England have developed the Infection Prevention and Control board assurance framework to support all healthcare providers to effectively self-assess their compliance with infection prevention and control guidance and to identify risks. The framework can be used to assure the Trust by assessing measures in line with current guidance. It can be used to provide evidence and as an improvement tool to optimise actions and interventions.

There have been various revisions and updates with some changes to previous versions. The latest version encompasses all respiratory viruses. The infection prevention team updated the new framework to reflect these changes and identify gaps and areas for improvement.

New Covid guidance has been issued from the 1st April 2023 recommending cessation of routine testing and isolation in asymptomatic patients and all staff. The guidance has been implemented by the Trust.

3. Main body of report

This further update to guidance has been released to address wider IPC and not just focussing on Covid 19. This extensive update/change of emphasis has been addressed by the IPC team and Silver Command.

The NIPC BAF v0.1 (updated September 2023) is attached.

4. Conclusion

The IPC BAF is being managed proactively and any gaps from the latest update will be monitored and managed.

5. Recommendation

The Board of Directors is asked to note the contents of the report and the accompanying IPC BAF. Further routine review is proposed twice a year in the September and March Boards.