

# Transition from Winter Respiratory Infection IPC Addendum back to the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) – May 2022

To reflect the current phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, ARHAI Scotland have commenced a transition away from the [Winter Respiratory Infections IPC Addendum](#) back to the main National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM). There has been unanimous agreement amongst stakeholder groups that a move away from pandemic specific guidance and back to a more 'business as usual' approach via the use of the NIPCM is necessary and timely. This also aligns with the UK plan to remove guidance for [Infection Prevention and Control for Seasonal Respiratory Infections in Health and Care settings \(including SARS-CoV-2\) for Winter 2021 to 2022](#) and for each nation to return to their own nationally developed guidance.

The transition back to the NIPCM sees a move away from respiratory and non-respiratory pathways associated with the Winter Respiratory Infections IPC addendum back to patient placement based on an assessment of risk alongside application of routine Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) and Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs) in line with pre pandemic IPC practices. Some pandemic measures do however remain and these are outlined in a new appendix (detailed below).

ARHAI Scotland completed a mapping exercise to review the content within the Winter Respiratory Infections IPC addendum and consider each in the context of 3 categories;

- Content requiring transfer to the NIPCM as BAU going forward
- Content which could be removed all together reflecting the current phase of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Content still required in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Details of the content which has transitioned to the NIPCM and content remaining in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are detailed below with supporting hyperlinks to the appropriate sections.

The Winter Respiratory Infections IPC addendum will remain live until Monday 11th July 2022 allowing NHS Boards time to implement the transition at which point it will then be archived.

Please also note that the information below relates to acute inpatient settings, mental health inpatient settings and community hospitals. Transition plans for care homes and other social community and residential settings is currently going through the appropriate governance channels.

## **Riders added to NIPCM and Winter Respiratory Infections IPC addendum**

Riders have been added to both the NIPCM landing page and the Addendum landing page advising of commencement of the transition process and notification that the addendum will be withdrawn on 11th July 2022. A [summary graphic](#) detailing in brief the content which has been transitioned has also been provided.

## **NIPCM Chapter 1 Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs)**

The following content has been added to this chapter;

- Reference to the Hierarchy of controls appendix – [opening paragraph](#)
- The need for all inpatient admissions to have a COVID-19 screening test undertaken on admission – [patient placement section](#)
- Reference to COVID-19 respiratory screening questions (linked out to the COVID-19 appendix) – [patient placement section](#)
- Reference to the extended use of facemasks guidance recognising that this is not a SICP but a pandemic measure – within Fluid Resistant Type IIR Surgical mask paragraph of [PPE section](#)
- Sessional use of PPE- [PPE section](#)

- PPE for visitors – within [PPE section](#)
- A link to the Scottish Government uniform, dress code and laundering policy – [Safe Management of Linen section](#)

## **NIPCM Chapter 2 Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs)**

The following content has been added to this chapter;

- Recognition that PCR tests, Rapid Diagnostic Tests (incl POCTS) and LFD tests may be used to help determine the presence of any respiratory infection – within [patient placement section](#)
- Reference to the extended use of face masks guidance – within surgical masks paragraph of [PPE section](#)
- Sessional use of PPE – [PPE section](#)

## **NIPCM Chapter 3 Healthcare Infection Incidents, Outbreaks and Data Exceedance**

The following content has been added to/changed within this chapter;

- COVID-19 case definitions now aligned with PHS case definitions – [COVID-19 Definition of confirmed and suspected case](#)
- Removal of references to respiratory and non-respiratory pathways
- An update to contact tracing – [contact tracing](#) section
- Replacement of TBPs with daily testing – New section: [Replacing TBPs with daily testing](#)

## **NIPCM Chapter 4 Infection Control in the Built Environment and Decontamination**

The following content has been added to this chapter;

- [Bed spacing guidance](#)

### **NIPCM Appendix 11 – Best Practice – Aide Memoire for Optimal Patient Placement and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) for infectious agents whilst a patient is in hospital**

Details of when to discontinue transmission based precautions for COVID-19 have been added to this appendix as a footnote (8).

### **NIPCM Appendix 16 – Best Practice - Aide Memoire for levels of PPE for Healthcare Workers when providing patients care**

Brief content has been added to this appendix reinforcing the need for RPE when performing an AGP on a patient with a known or suspected pathogen transmitted wholly or partly by the airborne or droplet route.

### **\*New Appendix\* Appendix 20 – Hierarchy of Controls**

This appendix details the Hierarchy of controls when applied to health and care settings and has been developed with a more general approach to Infection Prevention and Control rather than COVID-19 specific as is the version in the Winter Respiratory Infections IPC Addendum. Within this appendix is an SBAR which provides supporting evidence for the inclusion of the Hierarchy of Controls within the NIPCM.

## **\*New Appendix\* Appendix 21 – COVID-19 Pandemic Controls for Acute NHS Settings including Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS)**

Contents of this appendix include (each section within the appendix is hyperlinked to appropriate content);

- Physical distancing
- COVID-19 case definitions
- Respiratory Symptom Assessment Questions
- COVID-19 screening and testing requirements
- Management of contacts of COVID-19
- Respiratory Testing for Health Care Workers (HCWS)
- Patient Facing Health Care Workers: Isolation and Exemption
- Extended use of Facemasks
- COVID-19 visiting

### **Enquiries**

Enquiries regarding the transition process should be directed to;

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