



Quality, Safety and Experience
7th December 2021
Infection Prevention
Strategic Steering Group (IPSSG)

Situation

- Meeting held 9th November 2021, with the key discussions as follows:
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Reviews**
 - Positive and negative aspects of practice identified, with learning taken forward during the pandemic.
- **Tuberculosis (TB) Operational Group**
 - re-established to support ongoing work around the Llwynhendy TB outbreak.
- **Health Care Associated Infection (HCAI) Reduction Targets**
 - New targets Welsh Health Care (WHC) (2021) 028 Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) & HCAI Improvement Goals for 2021-22.
 - Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) is currently above last years figures on all infection targets
- **Environment**
 - Environmental Group established to provide assurance on cleanliness.
 - Positive feedback received from Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) regarding cleanliness following their recent review of Ward 7, Prince Philip Hospital (PPH).
 - Ventilation Group has met and will follow up on ventilation requirements for ward areas, and review and advise on the use of air purifiers.

COVID-19 Update

- We are currently in the third wave of the pandemic
 - 11 outbreaks, 3 currently open (at the time of the meeting)
- COVID- 19 Pandemic Reviews
 - Recognised that it was difficult to answer some of the review questions 9 months after the event. In view of this, there will be an outbreak review meeting once the outbreak is complete.

Risks and Mitigation

- **TB Operational Group**
 - Risk identified as the Respiratory Consultant leading the HB management of the TB Outbreak is retiring in April 2022. This is currently being addressed.
- **HCAI Infection Reduction Targets**
 - Infection rates have risen across most of Wales; work is being taken forward specifically related to Clostridium Difficile (C.difficile) and Ecoli Blood Stream Infection (BSI)
- **All Wales C. Difficile Forum has been established to review; diagnosis, epidemiology, diagnosis, root cause analysis, prevention and the effect that COVID-19 has had.**
 - The group has been particularly interested in the work that HDdUHB is undertaking with C.difficile patient cards, information and GP letters
- **Infection Prevention Team has a project accepted for EQliP.**
 - Improve the information for patients and GP's when a patient develops Ecoli (BSI) related to urosepsis.

Risks and Mitigation (cont'd)

- Environment
 - Additional isolation pods for Critical Care areas will come on site in January 2022. Once in place, it will give Critical Care a 50% sideroom capacity.
 - New national draft Infection Prevention (IP) consultation discussed. Feedback has been submitted and the revised guidance is expected to be released shortly.
 - Environmental Group to take forward Credits for Cleaning transition to Synbiotix audit system
 - Ventilation Group to look at ward based air quality and potential uses for air purifiers.
- Decontamination Group
 - IPSSG asked to support the replacement of sterilisers in Withybush General Hospital (WGH) & and the centralisation of Endoscopy Washers in Bronglais General Hospital (BGH) - this was supported

Recommendation

- For QSEC to take an assurance from the presentation provided on the work of the Infection Prevention Strategic Steering Group.