

**Report to the Meeting of the
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust**

Board of Directors

BOD 05/2021
(Agenda item 09)

27th January 2021

Infection, Prevention and Control – Board Assurance Framework

For: Assurance

Executive Summary

Situation:

In June 2020, NHSE/I issued an Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Board Assurance Framework (BAF) for Trusts to use to enable Trust Boards to gain assurance and oversight of IPC practice and evidence of robust and stringent IPC measures across 10 domains. This was updated in October 2020 by NHSE/I and in turn the Trusts existing IPC BAF has been updated to capture these revisions.

Background:

COVID19 is a Novel Virus and new evidence has been emerging throughout the period of the pandemic. The Trust has in place stringent IPC measures and a reporting mechanism through the IPC committee on a quarterly basis and to Quality Committee. Any immediate issues or concerns continue to be reported via the Weekly Review meeting and escalated to the Executive Committee when appropriate.

The IPC BAF was issued initially by Ruth May, CNO for England via a letter to all Directors of Nursing on 4 May 2020. NHSE/I and CQC have previously had copies on the BAF and are requesting sight of the updated version. It is a useful tool to assess all aspects of IPC in relation to COVID19 and other infections in order for the Board to be assured robust mechanisms are in place to protect patients and staff.

Assessment:

Multiple publications and guidance from PHE; NHSE/I has been issued to Trusts during the pandemic and Oxford Health has ensured all IPC/ PPE updated guidance is available for staff in response.

A dedicated COVID-19 page on the intranet was established early in the pandemic with twice weekly communications bulletins from the Medical Director and Chief Nurse to alert all staff to any changes in guidance or new information. Any revised or new guidance is also disseminated through clinical directors, Heads of Nursing and Matron structures.

The Chief Nurse and Consultant Nurse in IPC have completed the attached BAF for discussion and assurance. Some additions to the updated BAF include:

- implementation, monitoring and recording of PPE compliance and fit testing. The Trust has secured via national support, an external company to support fit testing of clinical staff. Due to supply issues, we have had to refit test staff on new masks and this work is ongoing.
- PPE adherence is monitored and introduction of PPE safety champions are now in place across all wards
- Systems to monitor and act on changes in national guidance
- Robust IPC risk assessment process
- Trust oversight of reported Covid infections and outbreaks
- More emphasis on enhanced and frequent cleaning of environment and equipment

There are no areas of the framework where the Trust has significant gaps or risks however there is still work to be undertaken in some areas which the Chief Nurse is currently leading. These include supporting patients to isolate as required, which is a particular challenge in mental health and secure settings. In addition, co-horting of patients within mental health settings has been challenging given our estate and the use of en-suite bedrooms has been our approach.

The introduction of swabbing at Day1 (admission); Day 3 and Day 5-7 plus weekly swabbing has now been implemented in all mental health settings.

Ongoing monitoring of IPC measures, including the IPC BAF, will continue through the IPC committee and Quality Sub-Committee.

Recommendations:

- For the BOD to note the assurance within the revised IPC BAF and the ongoing work on IPC measures within the Trust

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