

The Mill Medical Practice

Annual statement March 2018

The Mill's Medical Practice infection prevention lead is Melisa Payne (Practice Nurse) She is supported by Dr Steve Simons (Partner GP) Louise Bowers (Practice Manager) and Anna Long (IT and Facilities Coordinator)

Purpose

Infection control and cleanliness is a fundamental factor for all staff working at The Practice. This is to ensure that patients, visitors and staff remain safe and protected at all times. Effective prevention and infection control is utilised daily and applied consistently by all members of staff.

This annual statement will be updated each year. It will include some of the following areas.

- Incidents involving transmission of infection and action taken.
- Annual infection control audit and actions taken following this.
- Risk assessments and policies
- Details of staff training in prevention of infection control.
- Infection control advice to patients.

Transmission of infection

There have been no incidents of infection due to transmission reported to date. Chronic infected wounds have been isolated and no transmission to other patients has occurred. This was achieved by following microbiology guidance, appropriate use of oral antibiotics and antimicrobial dressings. In addition, strict techniques are adhered to by medical staff and decontamination of work areas are cleaned as per decontamination policy.

The members of the infection control team work very closely with contracted cleaners to ensure the building is kept to the appropriate high standard within NHS cleaning specifications. This is laid out in their contract, insuring they comply with the cleaning regulations specifically for Primary Care. Meetings with the manager of the contracting cleaning company, ensure this process runs effectively and any concerns are dealt with as they arise

In house Audits

A recent audit was carried out by Melisa Payne. This was to audit all clinical rooms to ensure that they were maintained to a high standard of infection control and waste disposal. This was also to confirm compliance with the Infection control and waste management policies. All clinical rooms are maintained to a high level of compliance and suggestions for improvement have been shared with staff. We are considering rubber covers for keyboards in clinical rooms to enhance our infection prevention programme yet further.

Minor surgery

Dr Steve Simons is responsible for minor surgery here at The Practice. He audits all procedures for possible post-operative complications/ infections.

He also audited the treatment room, where he performs minor operations and is satisfied that it is maintained to a high standard.

This room is cleaned prior to operations and this is logged whenever used.

External Audit

The Practice was also routinely audited by Kent and Medway NHS again this year. This is a professional and experienced NHS service provider which audits NHS establishments in the South East to ensure they are providing exceptional cleaning and waste management. This is to ensure a safe and clean environment is maintained for patients, visitors and staff.

Recommendations were given to us last year and acted upon immediately. The final report from the company this year was exceptionally complementary in the way compliance was maintained through training of staff, raising awareness and attention to detail.

Risk assessments and policies

Risk assessments and policies are regularly updated to minimise the risk of infection and transmission to ensure the safety of patients, visitors and staff. Action and implementation has been carried out where necessary.

Cleaning specifications and frequency.

The Mill has contracted cleaners which we closely monitor. Rooms are cleaned according to their usage/ purpose and cleaned appropriately as per policy. The contracted cleaners work exceptionally well here at The Mill. They are audited by the company manager to guarantee standards are maintained. This is also inspected by the practice infection prevention team to ensure high standards are maintained.

All equipment used by medical staff is either single use or cleaned regularly after patient usage. Cleaning logs are recorded for many items of equipment that has patient contact and risk of transmission of potential infection.

The surgery carries out an annual independent Legionella Assessment and we carry out our own monthly temperature testing. Records are maintained for auditing purposes.

Our air conditioning company has advised that our air conditioning does not require testing for this disease as Legionella testing is only required for systems that have static water. With the equipment we have on site, condensate water is only produced when the systems are operating in cooling mode and that water is disposed of on a continual basis either by gravity or condensate pump.

Toys

We encourage parents to bring in their own toys and books to entertain their children. We have removed all toys from the building.

Curtains

All clinical rooms now have disposable curtains to reduce risk of infection transmission. Depending on location, these are changed every 6-12 months or when visibly soiled.

Modestly blankets have been removed. All medical staff use disposable couch roll for this purpose.

Staff Training

All staff are trained yearly on prevention and control of infection in general practice. New staff are trained as part of their induction and then annually.

The infection control team meet regularly for meetings to ensure we are providing the best practice in terms of infection control and prevention to patients, visitors and staff.

Melisa (IP lead) has just attended a study day in London, specifically for Infection control in General Practice. It was encouraging to see the high standard of practice we already have implemented here and also new ideas to be implemented to improve our robust prevention programme.

Policies and protocols

Protocols and policies are currently updated as advice changes and are subsequently distributed to all members of staff via emails or accessible on The Practice computer system.

Patients

Possible contagious patients who pose a risk of transmitting infection to others are isolated in an isolation room on the ground floor if attending the surgery.

Full personal protective equipment is readily available to staff if required for possible transmittable infections such as Ebola.

An isolation room is always available if required and reception staff are aware of this policy and procedure.

Patients have access to alcohol gel in all areas to reduce the risk of transmission of infection.

Immunisation

As a Practice we ensure that all our clinical staff receive vaccinations for Hepatitis B, influenza, and MMR if required.

We work closely with Public Health England in vaccinating people at risk and also to ensure we adhere and advise patients on possible outbreaks.

We follow guidelines on child immunisations to protect the patient and also establish herd immunity. Invitations and recall are monitored closely

Melisa Payne

Practice Nurse

Lead Infection Prevention

June 2018