Standard Operating Procedure
Sheffield Clinical Research Facility
Engaging Medical Staff in Infection Prevention & Control
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This SOP will outline the procedure for engaging Medical Staff in infection prevention and control within the CRF in line with the STHFT Infection Control Policy. There are no GCP guidelines concerning infection control.

Background
It is important that all Medical Staff in the CRF engage in Infection Prevention & Control (IPC).
This is an important issue for the following reasons:
(i) Prevention of hospital associated infection
(ii) Adherence to both Trust and Governmental IPC Policies
(iii) The CRF has numerous members of different Medical Teams working within it. However high standards of IPC need to be practiced and uniformly maintained.

Definition
All staff working within the CRF (Trust or University) have the responsibility and a legal requirement to prevent and control infection (Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, COSHH Regulations 1999 and The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance). This SOP should always be used in conjunction with the STH Infection Control Guidelines.

For the purposes of this SOP the Study Nurse is the nurse, employed by the CRF, who is either assigned to coordinate the conduct of a study or a link nurse providing the link between the CRF and an external investigator team for a study

Procedure

1. Observing Medical Staff

1.1 All CRF Clinical Staff will observe Medical Staff before, during and after any clinical intervention with a study participant, (where possible within the constraints of patient privacy), with regard to good IPC practice.

1.2 The Infection Control Link Nurse carries out a monthly, observational, hand hygiene audit of all CRF Staff, including Medical Staff by utilising the UCL Hand Hygiene Observational Tool as specified in the STH Infection Control Accreditation Programme.

2. Breaches of Good Practice

2.1 The CRF Nurse should intervene if any breaches are observed and reinforce good practice, referring to STH Infection Control Guidelines where necessary.

2.1 If the CRF Nurse notes individuals have persistent breaches, despite previous interventions, the matter should be referred to the CRF Infection Control Link Nurse.
3. CRF Infection Control Link Nurse Responsibility

3.1 The CRF Infection Control Link Nurse will remind Medical Staff, when poor practice is identified, that it is their responsibility to be aware of good IPC practice and adhere to it (Healthcare Associated Infections, A guide for healthcare professionals, 2006)

3.2 If the CRF Infection Control Link Nurse identifies any gaps in knowledge and/or practice then the member of Medical Staff should be referred to the Infection Control Lead in their own directorate/management team for education and training.

Related Documentation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Name</th>
<th>File path</th>
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| STH Hand Hygiene Policy                                  | http://nww.sth.nhs.uk/STHcontDocs/STH_Pol/Cl
| ClinicalGovernance/HandHygienePolicy.doc                 | STH Infection Control Team                                                                  |
| STHFT Infection Control Guidelines                      | http://nww.sth.nhs.uk/STHcontDocs/STH_CGP/InfectionControl/SheffieldInfectionControlGuidelines.doc | STH Infection Control Team |
| Healthcare Associated Infections – A guide for healthcare professionals | http://www.bma.org.uk/health_promotion_ethics/diseases/HealthcareAssocInfect.jsp (Restricted access) | British Medical Association |
| Health and Safety at Work Act                            | Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 – legislation explained                              | UK Government           |
| The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 | HSE - Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH)                                      | UK Government           |
| 1.3 STH Infection Control Accreditation Programme.       | http://nww.sth.nhs.uk/NHS/InfectionControl/                                                 | STH Infection Control Team |

Where a referenced document or related SOP is unavailable electronically a hard copy may be requested from the document’s author or by contacting Sheffield Clinical Research Facility, O Floor, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2JF, Tel: 0114 2713339.