



Community Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for General Practice

(also suitable for adoption by other healthcare providers,
e.g. Dental Practice, Podiatry)

Invasive devices

INVASIVE DEVICES

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1. Introduction

An invasive device provides an entry point for micro-organisms to enter the body and is a potential source for introducing infection.

Standard precautions are essential infection prevention and control practices to prevent the spread of infection within General Practice.

All staff involved in providing care should be educated about the standard principles of infection prevention and control.

2. Definition of an invasive device

Invasive device

A device which, in whole or in part, penetrates inside the body, either through a body orifice or through the surface of the body.

Surgically invasive device

A device which penetrates inside the body through the surface of the body, with the aid of or in the context of a surgical operation/procedure.

3. Examples of invasive devices

Below are some examples of invasive devices, this list is not exhaustive:

- Vascular access devices:
 - Peripheral vascular access device
 - Central venous access device, e.g. peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC), skin-tunnelled catheter, implanted port
- Urinary catheters
- Wound drains
- Gastrostomy tubes
- Subdermal contraceptive implants
- Intrauterine devices

4. Period of use

The length of time an invasive device can be used for is categorised as follows:

- **Transient**
Normally intended for continuous use for less than 60 minutes
- **Short term**
Normally intended for continuous use for not more than 30 days
- **Long term**
Normally intended for continuous use for more than 30 days

5. Inserting an invasive device

- Prior to insertion, the need for any invasive device should be evaluated and any alternative methods be considered.
- Only staff trained and deemed competent in the insertion of the type of device being inserted should perform the procedure.
- The insertion should take place in a clinical environment, e.g. treatment room.
- Ensure all equipment used for the procedure is sterile, the packaging is intact and equipment within the expiry date.
- Prior to inserting a device through the skin, appropriate skin decontamination should be performed, e.g. 2% Chlorhexidine in 70% alcohol.
- Standard precautions and aseptic technique should be applied during the insertion of the device.
- Details of the device, reason for insertion and date inserted should be recorded in the patient's notes.

6. Managing an invasive device

Only staff trained and deemed competent in manipulation of the type of device inserted should perform the procedure. If staff are unfamiliar with a particular device, advice and protocols should be obtained from the relevant specialist nurses in secondary care.

The need for an invasive device must be reviewed regularly and the device should be removed as soon as possible.

The principles of care for any invasive device are to:

- Prevent infection
- Maintain a 'closed' system with as few connections as possible to reduce the risk of contamination
- Keep the device patent
- Prevent damage to the device and any attachments

Standard precautions and aseptic technique should be applied when manipulating the device.

Any signs or symptoms of infection associated with the device should be recorded in the patients' notes and applicable action taken. Seek further appropriate advice as required, e.g. Specialist Nurse, Consultant Microbiologist.

7. Infection Prevention and Control resources, education and training

The Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team have produced a wide range of innovative educational and IPC resources designed to assist your Practice in achieving compliance with the *Health and Social Care Act 2008* and CQC registration requirements.

These resources are either free to download from the website or available at a minimal cost covering administration and printing:

- Over 20 IPC Guidance documents (Policies) for General Practice
- 'Preventing Infection Workbook for General Practice'
- 'IPC CQC Inspection Preparation Pack for General Practice'
- IPC audit tools, posters, leaflets and factsheets
- 'IPC Advice Bulletin for GP Practice Staff'

In addition, we hold educational study events in North Yorkshire and can arrange bespoke training packages and 'Mock IPC CQC Inspections'. Prices vary depending on your requirements and location.

Further information on these high quality evidence-based resources is available at www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk.

8. References

Department of Health (2015) *The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance*

European Commission (June 2010) Guidelines relating to the application of The Council Directive 93/42/EEC on medical devices http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/sectors/medical-devices/files/meddev/2_4_1_rev_9_classification_en.pdf

NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (March 2012, updated February 2017) *Healthcare-associated infections: prevention and control in primary and community care. Clinical guideline 139*
www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg139

Royal Marsden (2015) *The Royal Marsden Manual of Nursing Procedures 9th Edition*