

IPC Annual Statement Report

Elswick Family Practice.

1st April 2026 – 31ST March 2027.

Purpose

This annual statement will be generated each year in April in accordance with the requirements of the [Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice](#) on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance. The report will be published on the practice website and will include the following summary:

- Any infection transmission incidents and any action taken (these will have been reported in accordance with our significant event procedure)
- Details of any infection control audits undertaken, and actions undertaken
- Details of any risk assessments undertaken for the prevention and control of infection
- Details of staff training
- Any review and update of policies, procedures, and guidelines

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) lead

The lead for infection prevention and control at Elswick Family Practice is Laney Fitzpatrick, Practice Nurse. The IPC lead is supported by the nursing team.

a. Infection transmission incidents (significant events)

Significant events involve examples of good practice as well as challenging events.

Positive events are discussed at meetings to allow all staff to be appraised of areas of best practice.

Negative events are managed by the staff member who either identified or was advised of any potential shortcoming. This person will complete a Significant Event Analysis (SEA) form that commences an investigation process to establish what can be learnt and to indicate changes that might lead to future improvements.

All significant events are reviewed and discussed at several meetings each month. Any learning points are cascaded to all relevant staff where an action plan, including audits or policy review, may follow.

In the past year there have been 0 significant events raised that related to infection control. There have also been 0 complaints made regarding cleanliness or infection control.



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b. Infection prevention audit and actions

Laney Fitzpatrick as infection control lead is supported by Lynsey Anderson who is infection control link nurse, undertakes an annual internal audit of the environment every April using the SICP's Assurance Annual IPC Audit tool for General Practice.

Audits on handwashing, decontamination of equipment, environmental cleaning, correct use of PPE and sharps are currently undertaken along with an audit of fridges and cold chain and waste management.

c. Risk assessments

Risk assessments are carried out so that any risk is minimised to be as low as reasonably practicable. Additionally, a risk assessment that can identify best practice. Key IPC risk assessments and mitigations during the period April 2025 – April 2026 included:

Staff immunisation: occupational health vaccination checks appropriate to role (e.g. influenza, MMR, Hepatitis B where indicated).

Patient immunisation: partaking in the National Immunisation campaigns for patients and offering vaccinations in-house and via home visits to our patients.

Cleaning standards: documented cleaning specifications and frequencies, with routine monitoring and recorded checks including equipment cleanliness.

Measles preparedness: we promote MMR catch-up and maintain vigilance for suspected cases. PPE was discussed in the clinical recent meeting; we are to look at arranging fitting for FFP3 masks for clinicians who may require assessing patients with measles. Any suspected cases are managed and escalated in line with UKHSA guidance.

The NHS Cleaning Specifications state the curtains should be cleaned or if using disposable curtains, replaced every 6 months. To this effect we use disposable curtains and ensure they are changed every 6 months. The modesty curtains although handled by clinicians are never handled by patients and clinicians have been reminded to always remove gloves and clean hands after an examination and before touching the curtains. All curtains are regularly reviewed and changed if visibly soiled.



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d. Training

In addition to staff being involved in risk assessments and significant events, at Elswick Family Practice all staff receive IPC induction training on commencing their post. Thereafter, all staff receive refresher training annually.

Laney has undertaken a 2-day IPC lead training course in April of this year and attends regular webinars to keep updated on infection prevention-practice.

e. Policies and procedures

The infection prevention and control related policies and procedures are updated or reviewed yearly and available to all staff. Additionally, all policies are amended on an ongoing basis as per current advice, guidance, and legislation changes.

f. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all staff members at Elswick Family Practice to be familiar with this statement and their roles and responsibilities under it.

g. Review

The IPC lead and Tracey Carr are responsible for reviewing and producing the annual statement.

This annual statement will be updated on or before 30/4/27

Signed by

Laney Fitzpatrick
For and on behalf of Elswick Family Practice