

The Role of the Local Health Protection Unit in respect of Healthcare Associated Infection & Infection Prevention & Control



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The Health Protection Agency



Role of the HPA

- To protect UK public health and reduce the impact of infectious diseases & environmental hazards (relating to chemical, radiation & poisons)
- Provides advice & support & works in partnership with others who have health protection responsibilities

HPA Divisions

Local and Regional Services

Regional Microbiology Network

Centre for Infections

Centre for Emergency Preparedness
and Response

Centre for Radiation, Chemical
and Environmental Hazards

Corporate Services

National Institute for Biological
Standards and Control



Health Protection Units

26 HPU's across England

3 units in West Midlands

WM East HPU (Tel: 0121 352 5310)

- Birmingham, Coventry & Warwickshire

WM North HPU (Tel: 01785 221158)

- Shropshire & Staffordshire

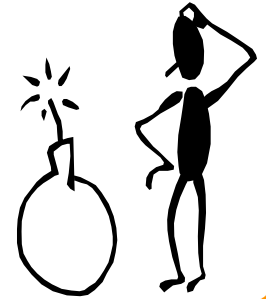
WM West HPU (Tel No: 01562 756300)

- Herefordshire, Worcestershire & Black Country

The HPU Multi Disciplinary Team



- Consultants in Communicable Disease Control
- Specialist nurses/practitioners
- Information Officers & members of the admin team gather and interpret local information to create a picture of diseases and other hazards which is used in planning & coordinating our work.
- Supported by CRCE & CEPR, RMN & Regional Surveillance teams.



Proactive and Acute Roles



Proactive work (prevention)

This includes:

- working with health and social care partners to provide effective immunisation programmes
- Working with partners to assist in the prevention of healthcare associated infections e.g. MRSA and *C. Difficile*
- Provision of advice in regard to health protection issues e.g. Infection control, emergency planning

Acute work (Response)

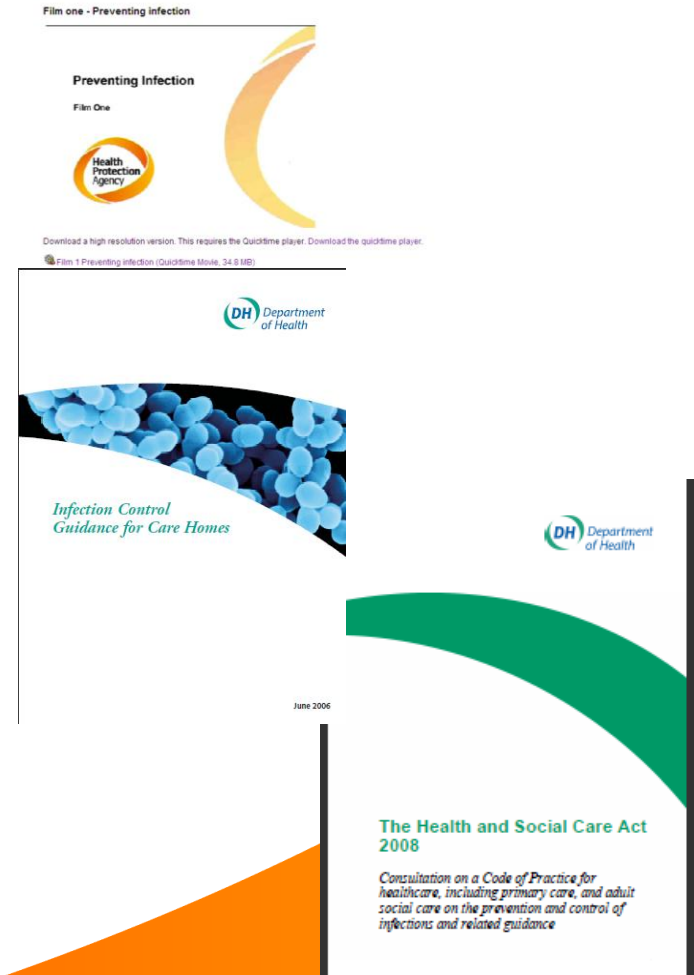
Priorities include:

- advising how to stop infectious diseases from spreading.
- carrying out risk assessments to find out how outbreaks occurred, and recommending ways to prevent them happening again.
- tracing people who may have come into contact with, or be carrying an infectious disease.
- compiling statistics on notifiable diseases e.g. mumps and measles.

Outbreak and incident management



- **Some PCT's provide infection control services to care homes & will manage outbreaks**
- **HPA will be part of the multiagency effort, led by the PCT. IPCT will inform HPU of outbreaks reported to them**
- **If no PCT IPC service, HPU will provide telephone advice & written guidance to the home**
- **HPU liaise with local PCT's, Environmental Health & Acute Trusts to ensure all are aware of local outbreaks**
- **Homes should inform CQC**



Training



HPA is not funded to deliver direct training to care home staff but will provide support

- **Ad hoc training provided as part of outbreak management Induction training**
- **DVD provided free of charge (x20,000)**
- **Commercial approach to routine training**

Summary



HPU's are not able to provide full IP&C service to care homes but can offer support

- Basic IP&C guidelines that can be adapted by homes
- Training DVD
- Will work with PCT IP&C Teams to deliver study days
- Access to self audit tools
- Telephone advice

www.hpa.org.uk