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Guidance and good practice

International Infection Prevention Week 19th – 25th October 2025

Infection prevention and control (IPC) is a practical, evidence-based approach to prevent people from being harmed by avoidable infections. International Infection Prevention Week aims to shine a light on infection prevention each and every year.

Infections can spread quickly, but many are preventable. Whether it's through proper hand hygiene, vaccinations, or knowing when to seek medical advice, we all play a role in keeping our community safe.

The theme for the week is "Never a Nuisance," emphasising that speaking up about health concerns, especially for vulnerable individuals, is crucial for preventing infection.

This aligns with the broader International Infection Prevention Week, a global event dedicated to educating the public and healthcare professionals on how to prevent the spread of infections through practices like hand hygiene, vaccinations, and staying home when unwell.

Further information can be found on the following links:

Infection prevention basics

IPC Resource for Adult Social Care

Audit Tool

Harrogate Community IPC Team have an annual audit tool available for care homes to provide assurance that Standard Infection Prevention & Control precautions are being followed as per best practice and IPC policies.

The audit tool can be downloaded via the link Standard IPC Precautions – Annual Audit Tool.

Campaign to Reduce Medicines Waste in LLR Care Homes

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Care Homes Pharmacy Team would like to share details about an important campaign focusing on reducing medicines waste in care homes.

Why is this important?

Medicines waste places a significant financial burden on the NHS. It is estimated that between £250 to £300 million worth of medicines are wasted annually in primary and community care across England. Of this, approximately £50 million worth of NHS-supplied medicines are disposed of unused by care homes. While not all waste is avoidable, studies suggest that 30–50% of this waste could be prevented.

Everyone involved in the prescribing, dispensing, and administration of medicines has a role to play in reducing waste. We are currently working with care homes across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) to help reduce the volume of unused medication being disposed of.

How can you help?

We are asking for a copy of your care home's medication return/disposal log for the past two months. This will enable us to understand the scale of waste and provide tailored support to reduce it.

To protect confidentiality resident identifiers (e.g. names or dates of birth) are not required – please ensure these are removed /blanked out however disposal dates should be included.

Preferred method: Electronic submission

We strongly encourage care homes to share this information electronically as it is:

- Quicker and more efficient – avoiding delays linked to scheduling visits
- Secure – information shared via NHS email is protected to the highest standard
- Electronically friendly – reducing the need for travel and paperwork
- Convenient – can be done at a time that suits your team

Please email your completed log either on an excel spreadsheet or photo to:

llricb-llr.carehomewasteproject@nhs.net.

Please include the following details in your email - care home name, contact name, phone number, email address and attach two months waste medicines logs (resident identifiers removed), name of associated GP practice for the care home.

Alternative method: Onsite collection

If you are unable to share this information electronically, please contact us to arrange a visit: llricb-llr.carehomewasteproject@nhs.net.

Please include the following details so that we can arrange a visit - care home name, contact name, phone number, email address.

If we do not receive your log by 31st October 2025, we will get in touch.

What can you expect from us?

After receiving the waste logs, we will provide a report outlining both the monetary and environmental impact of the waste. Based on this, we will offer tailored guidance to help reduce avoidable medication returns at your care home.

What do we ask of you?

If you receive medication that was not ordered for a cycle, please inform us so we can investigate with the relevant surgery and pharmacy.

Consider our recommendations and implement steps to reduce medication waste in your care home.

Leicestershire County Council updates

Adult Social Care CQC Report

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published its report of Leicestershire County Council Adult Social Care services based on an assessment of services carried out between September 2024 and February 2025, which gives the services a 'requires improvement' rating.

This is the first CQC Assessment under new regulatory powers introduced by the Health and Care Act 2022.

The report says that people in Leicestershire have access to a range of support options that are safe, effective and affordable and states that improvements are needed in some areas. The report was also positive in a number of areas including the Home Care Assessment and Reablement Team (HART) who support people to stay at or return home following a hospital stay, and the way assessments reflect people's views and how they wish to live their lives.

Improvements are already underway in Leicestershire County Council's adult's services. Since the inspection, the number of people waiting for an assessment is down by 200. Improvements to information and advice, including better information available online, the addition of videos with British Sign Language interpretation, and new information packs are now in place.

Jon Wilson, Director of Adult Social Care stated "We work really hard to support people to access the care and support they need. I'm pleased the report recognises where we are performing well and our commitment to improving. Improvements are already underway and we're seeing a difference."

Councillor Carl Abbott, cabinet member for adult social care added "In the report, the CQC spoke with a range of people who spoke of a positive and respectful approach from staff. Our focus now is on stepping up these improvements to make sure people receive the best possible service in Leicestershire."

You can read the full report online.

Events

Action Falls

University of Nottingham are offering a train the trainer course regarding falls prevention in residential homes. The course is delivered online and costs £150.

Link to Action Falls Course.

Reminders

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 20 October 2025. If you are interested in contributing by writing about a topic of your choice, perhaps something that is particularly important to you, please contact us at enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk.

Useful links

- Current and past editions of Leicestershire County Council Provider News
- Leicestershire County Council adult social care provider conference calls
- LLR Providing Care – resources, advice, signposting
- Leicestershire and Leicester Inspired to Care – recruitment and retention support
- Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG)
- Adults & Communities Engagement Panel - Newsletters