

# THE ROLE OF THE INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL TEAM

The Infection Prevention & Control Team (IPCT) advises on the prevention, surveillance, investigation and control of infection within the Board.

The IPCT plays an important role in creating and maintaining a safe environment for patients, visitors and staff. To fulfil this role, they include the following activities in their work plan and activities:

1. Formulating infection control policies/guidelines in conjunction with the Health Protection, Occupational Health and General Services Teams
2. Education of health care personnel (formally and informally)
3. Monitoring practices and standards of care
4. Support NHS Borders with the implementation of infection control policies/guidelines
5. Identifying risk situations and advising on the correct placement and care plan for infected and/or vulnerable patients
6. Liaising with Occupational Health Department, to ensure that staff receive appropriate advice regarding health care and possible infection risk at work
7. Being prime investigators during an outbreak. The Infection Control Doctor will formally declare an outbreak when it has occurred within NHS Borders (Outbreak Control Section – Infection Control Manual)
8. Advice on closure of wards/facilities, for Infection Control purposes, is the responsibility of NHS Borders Infection Prevention & Control Team
9. Creating effective lines of communication between wards, departments, managers in hospital and community, the microbiology department and the Infection Control Committee; Board Executive Team
10. Being active members of Policy Review Groups and any other relevant groups and committees
11. Initiating and/or participating in research based activity.