

Infection Prevention and Control

Reducing the risk of infection in hospital: What YOU can do to help



Information Leaflet for Visitors and Carers

Introduction

The risk of acquiring an infection whilst in hospital remains low. Here at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust all the staff work hard to ensure there is consistent high quality, safe infection prevention and control practice throughout the hospital.

Many of our patients are vulnerable to infection. Maintaining their safety is paramount.

What you can do to help

You can help reduce the risk of infection by following the key points below:

- Visit only during the designated visiting times unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with the nurse in charge of the ward.
- Children under 16 are not allowed to visit unless there are exceptional circumstances where visiting may be agreed with the nurse in charge of the ward.
- Only 2 visitors are allowed at the patient's bed-side at any one time.
- Please do not sit on the beds.
- Please use the hygienic hand rub before entering and leaving the ward. Alternatively clean your hands with liquid soap and running water.
- Cover any open wounds such as a cut finger with a waterproof dressing.
- Always clean your hands before meals and after using the toilet, coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

The Trust endorses a clear locker top approach to improve access for cleaning teams. Please do not bring any unnecessary items into hospital.

- If you notice something which has been missed during cleaning, report it immediately to member of staff.

Do not come to the hospital if you have:

- **Vomiting and/or diarrhoea and until you have been symptom free for 48 hours.**
- **Coughs, colds or flu-like symptoms.**
- **Any infectious conditions e.g. chickenpox, mumps.**
- **If you have had contact with family or friends with any of the above.**

If you have any further questions, please contact a member of the Infection Prevention Team on the number below.

Infection Prevention Team 01535 294848

Write any questions/queries below

The Public health England website will give further guidance specific:
<http://www.phe.org.uk>

If you require this leaflet in other languages or formats please telephone the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on: 01535 294019 for advice.

Please raise any issue you may have about your care and treatment with a member of staff. Raising your concerns will not adversely affect the care you will receive.

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Version: 1.1 Issue Date: March 2012 Review: March 2016
Leaflet Number: