

**Notes on a meeting of the LAS Infection Prevention and Control  
Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 @ 9 am at LAS headquarters**

Chair: Steve Lennox

- Steve to write bulletin to inform staff to stop taking routine blood samples. Only NW amb/service does.
  - MMR vaccinations to be promoted
  - HepB report being finalized. ? as to whether 5 year booster needed/ blood test will also determine need
  - New folding razors to be provided and old ones withdrawn – due to problems with old ones (accidental injuries, etc.)
  - Larger sharps box with larger opening being provided – will fit old razors as well.
  - ampoules – second largest reason for staff injury – about 12/month. Ampoule openers to be provided which should help.
  - Cigarette bins in stations now to be emptied by cleaners.
  - Steering wheel covers to be sought – many are worn down and possible cause of infection transfer
  - Balanced scorecard audits vary – deep cleansing of vehicles improving and all vehicles being audited. Issues remain with staff, management, contractors and these are being monitored and addressed.
  - Sharps – old razor withdrawal will reduce injuries; Ampoule breakers should help; there are some training issues around cannulas
- Workstreams have been reduced due to progress

Mattress covers –Blankets may be reused. “Blankets are reused and there is no consistent process for the swapping of sheets and blankets at hospitals” - issues of getting blankets back - some 10,000 issued each month with 7000 returned. Talks in progress with hospitals about blankets and sheets. Trial being done on carry sheets which relies on getting them back. Presently when they go into hospital they don't come back. LAS wants to use hospital laundries as part of a formal arrangement. This is what most other ambulance services do. Also issue of red blankets which will always be needed. 17,000 went into system at beginning of year and shortages now. Patients must not suffer.

Decontamination of equipment – meeting today (1<sup>st</sup> Nov.)

Training on Infection Control –records of staff training not adequate. DSR training still outstanding. Particular pressure on

not removing front line staff as at present 200 shortage. More coming on line. Issue is that front line staff are entitled to this training. New workbook to be rolled out early in 2013.

Hand hygiene auditing – awaiting audit progress.

- Risks: (current)
  - not following D of H guidelines on linen yet
  - cleaning arrangements not yet sufficient
  - contamination of equipment
  - training on infection control
  - reusing single use equipment (if none other available)
  - sharps infection
- Guidance to be issued on transport of blood for transfusions
- New policy on transport of specimens circulated.
- Issue of unsatisfactory furniture in some station, and budget currently depleted. Some may have holes/ worn etc. risking infection. All furniture should be wipeable. Audits.
- Guidance/procedure being written on conveyance of Category 4 (dangerous disease) patients
- Flu vaccinations – Campaign just launched. 87 vaccinators trained, at least one person in each station. 2500 vaccines in stock. LAS usually obtain 40% rate. 45 – 50% average across NHS Trusts.
- Bulletins have include measles info and vaccination info due to increased outbreaks – also whooping cough. Corona virus swabbing of staff required.
- One front line member complained of the risks of many mattresses – held together by tape – as infection risk.
- **Next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2013**

*Meeting focused on infection issues, auditing and monitoring risks and related issues, policies, etc. It seemed very task oriented and patient and staff focused. Improving quality and decreasing risks actively pursued but very complex in these times of cuts, staff shortages, etc. Kathy West*