

## **INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMITTEE**

### **LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> 2017**

Here are the major points I gleaned from the IPCC meeting. There was a lot to cover and at times I felt out of my depth, mainly due to lack of historical perspective.

#### 1. Inoculations

- a. Flu inoculations. The uptake is not as high as the LAS would like but they are aggressively promoting this with the staff.
  - i. They are currently recruiting in Australia where the H3N2 flu virus is currently active.
  - ii. The H3N2 was the variant in the Northern hemisphere last year so will be incorporated in the current vaccine.
- b. BCG. There is still a shortage of the BCG vaccine. This is putting staff at risk.
  - i. There is some concern about the low percentage of staff recruited from Australia who have received BCG inoculations.

#### 2. Blankets / Linen

- a. All ambulances now have 4 blankets on board at the start of the shift. All stations are supposed to carry stock so that this buffer can be maintained.
- b. There are ongoing problems with compliance on DH requirements.
- c. There are several pieces of equipment on trial within the ambulances including QIP blankets.
- d. LAS is looking at patient specific linen packs which will be supplied by hospitals.
- e. LAS is considering contracts for supply and laundering of blankets.

3. Sharps injuries.
  - a. These are down in Q2 of 2017 except for needle stick injuries.
  - b. Reports of sharps bins are not being labelled correctly.
  - c. Evidence of some infectious waste bags are not tagged.
  - d. Some infectious waste bins are not being locked.
4. Hygiene / Cleaning.
  - a. Deep cleaning of vehicles is > 90%.
  - b. Personal hygiene compliance is up.
  - c. Hand hygiene is at a maximum of 83% and needs improvement. It is currently not compliant with BBE.
  - d. Premises cleaning is down at 3 sites and this is being addressed.
5. Training.
  - a. This is up across LAS but is still below this 90% target.
6. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).
  - a. Staff need more education on use of PPE.
  - b. Most staff not aware that PPE is available in the ambulance kit.

There was more but as I have mentioned I was slightly overwhelmed but the volume of information and the rate at which this was delivered. This was my first meeting on behalf of the Forum.

Adrian Dodd

EC Member, Patients' Forum for the LAS