

Infection Control

Knowledge Paper Answers

Infection Control Knowledge Paper

1. How many criteria do care providers have to meet to comply with outcome 8 of the essential standards of quality and safety?

10

2. According to these criteria what must employers do for people who develop infections?

Ensure that people who have or develop an infection are identified promptly and receive the appropriate treatment and care.

3. Where can you find a full list of reportable illnesses?

RIDDOR website www.hse.gov.uk/riddor

4. What types of organism can cause illness?

Pathogenic; or bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites

5. Who is at risk from infections in care settings

- Clients
- Staff
- visitors

6. Suggest 3 factors that would increase an individual's risk of infection.

- Extremes of age – very young or very old
- Pregnancy
- Existing illness or poor physical health
- Lack of mobility
- Poor diet
- Incontinence
- Presence of an open wound or stoma
- Sharing facilities
- Smoking

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7. How do infecting organisms get from one person to another?

Cross contamination

8. What is the difference between local and systemic infections?

Local infections affect one area; systemic infect several organs or the whole body

9. What is colonisation?

When someone carries a pathogen but is not affected by it

10. Suggest 2 ways in which clients can be supported to lower their risk of infection.

- Treat existing medical conditions
- Work with the client and a physiotherapist to improve mobility
- Help the client to improve their diet and encourage weight loss or gain
- Reduce the likelihood of pressure sores and provide appropriate care for wounds
- Support the client to improve continence
- Help the client to stop smoking

11. What is PPE?

Personal Protective Equipment

12. Give 3 examples of times when you would need to wash your hands.

- Personal care tasks
- Food handling
- Using the toilet
- Blowing your nose
- Having a cigarette
- Starting and finishing work
- Touching animals
- Handling laundry
- Washing up
- Handling waste

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13. Describe good hand washing techniques.

To wash hands properly use warm running water and soap and follow these stages:

- Wet hands and wrists
- Put soap on palm and rub palms together
- Rub interlaced fingers together
- Rub backs of each hand and between fingers
- Scrub tips of fingers
- Rub around the thumb joint
- Rinse
- Dry thoroughly with a paper towel; place this in a sealed bin after use

This process should take at least 20 seconds; bacteria and other microorganisms will be washed down the drain and wiped off on the paper towel and disposed of in the bin.

14. What is an IPC lead?

An infection prevention and control; lead – the person in the workplace with overall responsibility for all things infection related.

15. When should hoists be cleaned?

Straight after use.

16. How would you deal with a sharps injury?

If you are injured, encourage bleeding by gently squeezing the wound; clean with running water; report to your manager; complete an accident form and seek medical advice.

17. How can you protect yourself from contamination when handling laundry?

When handling laundry, wear gloves, avoid too much contact with soiled items and wash your hands when you have finished.

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18. Give 3 examples of signs that pests might be on the premises.

- Droppings
- Chewed packaging
- Paw prints
- Nests
- Smells (mouse urine in particular has a strong odour)
- Black, greasy marks on skirting boards
- Visible holes in wall
- Shed fur / skin

19. Why should rubbish be stored in sealed bins outside the premises?

Fire hazard, pests, infection control

20. Describe 2 ways in which you take personal responsibility for infection control.

All carers have a responsibility to ensure their own personal hygiene; overall cleanliness is an important way of reducing the risks of cross contamination.

If you are suffering from any illnesses, especially highly contagious types such as flu, sickness and diarrhoea, you must report them to your manager. Certain illnesses will exclude you from working and failure to report them may lead to you being fined under health and safety or food handling legislation.

Apart from keeping your hands clean you must also ensure that your body, hair and clothing are washed regularly. It is a good idea to have clothes that you wear only for work and to change into, and out of, them in your workplace. If you wear your work clothes to and from work you may contaminate between the two environments; you could possibly introduce infection to your family and; if you stop at a shop on the way home, you run the risk of infecting the wider community.

It's important that you are aware of your employer's policies and procedures for infection control and that you follow the safe practices they introduce. Look out for any signs of dirt and contamination in your workplace and deal with them appropriately. Check equipment before using it and if you are unsure about its cleanliness, clean it yourself or report it and do not use it until it has been dealt with.

If you have any concerns about the cleanliness of the environment you work in or the general standards of infection control, you must raise them with your manager using appropriate reporting methods.