**INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL NEWSLETTER**

**Care homes**

**Issue 6 February 2014**

**Latest News in Calderdale**

As you may be aware many wards in the hospital have been affected by VGE (Norovirus) in recent months. Please be vigilant in looking for signs and symptoms in residents.

**Stop the Pressure**

The Tissue Viability team at the acute Trust are providing free Tissue Viability training for non registered care staff (i.e. not registered with the NMC or HPC).

The programme includes:

* *Patient stories*
* *Causes of pressure ulcers and risk factors*
* *Assessment and grading*
* *Prevention strategies*
* *Equipment selection and use*

For further details or to book a place please ring the TVN team on: 01484 355396.

**Hello everyone**

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) newsletter for Care Homes in Calderdale.

IPC team update:

Welcome to Clare Smith, Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner.

Tel: 01422 266164

clare.smith@calderdale.gov.uk

Clare will be focussing her work on Care homes and is happy to be contacted with any IPC queries or concerns you may have.

Infection prevention and control is everyone’s business and when it is done right, makes a real difference to residents/service users and staff. If there is a topic you would like us to cover, please let us know**:**

**Write to us** at 3rd Floor, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UN

Call us on: 01422 266163

**Email us** on IPC@calderdale.nhs.uk

**Fax us** on 01422 392081

We issued the last Newsletter in October 2013 in paper format, along with the revised Viral Gastroenteritis (VGE) Outbreak packs. We understand that many of you did not receive the pack and newsletter. We wanted to ensure that the homes receive the information on VGE audit analysis and so have reissued the information in this Newsletter.

Thank you to all the homes who advised us that they did not receive the Outbreak pack. The homes that have not yet contacted us please get in touch with your email address so can send you the information. It is important that you have the correct details for Public Health England if you need to notify them.

**Viral Gastroenteritis – audit analysis 12/13**

Following 28 outbreaks reported in 2012-13, and their management audited, the results have been analysed and shared at the IPC Champions meeting. The improvements seen are pleasing and the issues of concern are not surprising. We ask that you discuss these areas of learning and the changes to the outbreak management pack with your teams.

As we report in financial years (makes sense for VGE season too) the data is reported as Year 1 (10/11), Year 2 (11/12) and Year 3 (12/13).

Key findings were:

* ***Reporting without delay:*** A 15% increase observed in year 2, and a further increase of 4% in year 3. This is great news. *Never put off reporting a concern*.
* ***Who do you report an outbreak to:* (Fig1)** in years 2 and 3 fewer homes initially reported to the HPA.

It is acknowledged that the HPA have changed their number, and their communication of this change may not have found its way onto the posters. The poster has been updated and sent with this newsletter – please remove the old one and replace with the new one

**.. NB: For OUTBREAK REPORTING call the Health Protection Unit at Public Health England on 0113 3860300. For notification out of hours there is a NEW number: 0300 3300260 and ask for the “South and West Yorkshire PHE out of hours rota”.**

* + - * ***Submitting stool samples:*** In year 1, 55% of homes submitted stool samples, increasing in year 2 to over 80% of homes, but dropping to 71% in year 3....**WHY?** There were a few homes who experienced no opportunities to take samples, rather than had missed opportunities to collect them. The new guide to collecting samples in your Outbreak pack may help.
			* ***What bugs did we find this year?*** The samples go to Leeds to be tested. They are reported back (if positive for viruses) via the Environmental Health Officers. A positive sample confirms the causative organism. Negative samples do not mean there was no causative organism, just that the test didnt pick one up – they are not 100% accurate. If you have a resident with diarrhoea that is not resolving, it *may* be C.Difficile. In these circumstances, send a sample via the GP (**WITHOUT** an ILOG number). Sending it to Leeds does not result in the residents GP being informed of the infection, nor does it register in the local results system. Two cases of C.Difficile were reported during outbreaks....in both instances there were delays in the results reaching the right people.

Norovirus predominant as in previous years. Also seen this year was Astrovirus which belongs to the same family of viruses as Norovirus. No Sapovirus reported in year 3.

Pie chart to summarise the % of changes since 2011-2012 audit

***Standards for the management of a viral gastroenteritis outbreak***: In Year 3: of the 36 standards audited following each outbreak, some improved, and some did not .....

Areas that have improved

***Steam Cleaning*** – many more homes have the facilities available to steam clean carpets and soft furnishings.

***Improved cleaning frequency/methods*** – many more homes are using hypochlorite for cleaning during outbreaks as per Department of Health guidelines.

***Stool chart use increased*** - a very positive outcome. The stool chart has now been reviewed and combined with a fluid balance chart in the pack.....vital for monitoring for dehydration.

***Early instigation of IPC measures*** – It is great to see so many homes having instigated control measures such as isolation of symptomatic residents, rather than waiting for instructions...

***Communication of infection risk*** - a number of homes needed and used the transfer stickers and notified the admitting unit – one home said these were BRILLIANT.

***Completion of the log*** – many more homes are using the log sheets as intended, thought there is still some confusion. We have reworked the sheets into a case register, to collect all the cases information, plus a running log sheet. I hope these help to make things even clearer.

Areas that need improvement

* ***Uniform/workwear*** - staff wearing uniforms to go home from work during an outbreak remains a area to be addressed by many homes - A uniform or workwear policy/guideline could address this.
* ***Infectious waste stream*** – many homes have not arranged with thier waste contractor for access to an infectious waste disposal (orange bags) should they need one. During an outbreak of VGE, faecally soiled pads should be disposed of as infectious waste.
* ***Availability of transfer stickers*** – some homes had not used stickers because they had run out of them – to replenish stickers, call the IPC team or collect at the next Champions meeting.

**Dates for diaries:**

Each care home should have an IPC Champion. If your home does not have a Champion or your Champion has not attended recently and you would like to join the group, please get in touch. The dates for 2014’s meetings are:

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| Date | Time | Venue |
| Wednesday 22nd January 2014 | 13.00-16.30 | Room N, Heath Training and Development Centre |
| Thursday March 27th 2014 | 13.00-16.30 | Room C, Heath Training and Development Centre |
| Thursday 22nd May 2014  | 13.00-16.30 | Room C, Heath Training and Development Centre |
| Thursday 31st July 2014 | 13.00-16.30 | Room L, Heath Training and Development Centre |
| Thursday 25th September 2014 | 13.00-16.30 | Room L, Heath Training and Development Centre |
| Thursday 27th November 2014 | 13.00-16.30 | Room L, Heath Training and Development Centre |
| Thursday 22nd January 2015 | 13.00-16.30 | Room L, Heath Training and Development Centre |
| Thursday 19 March 2015 | 13.00-16.30 | Room L, Heath Training and Development Centre |