

Creating an IPC App for Ambulance staff to access at the point of patient care.

Theme:

Use of digital solutions for enhanced IPC

Rachael Skates

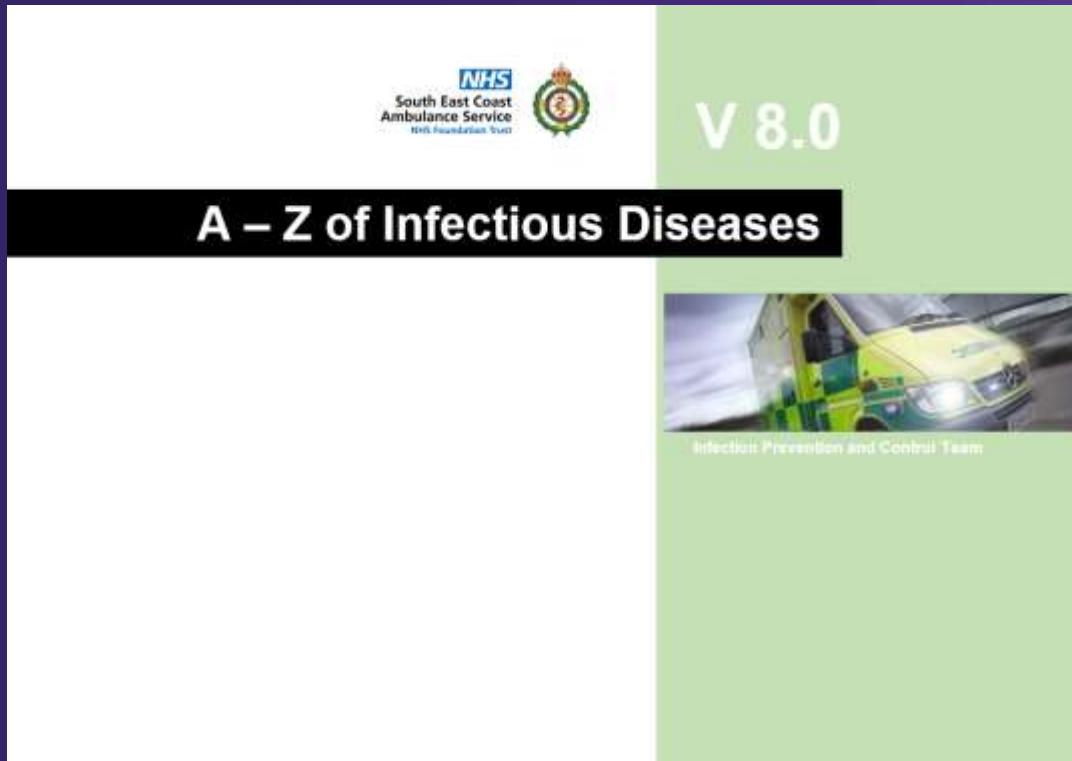
IPC Lead



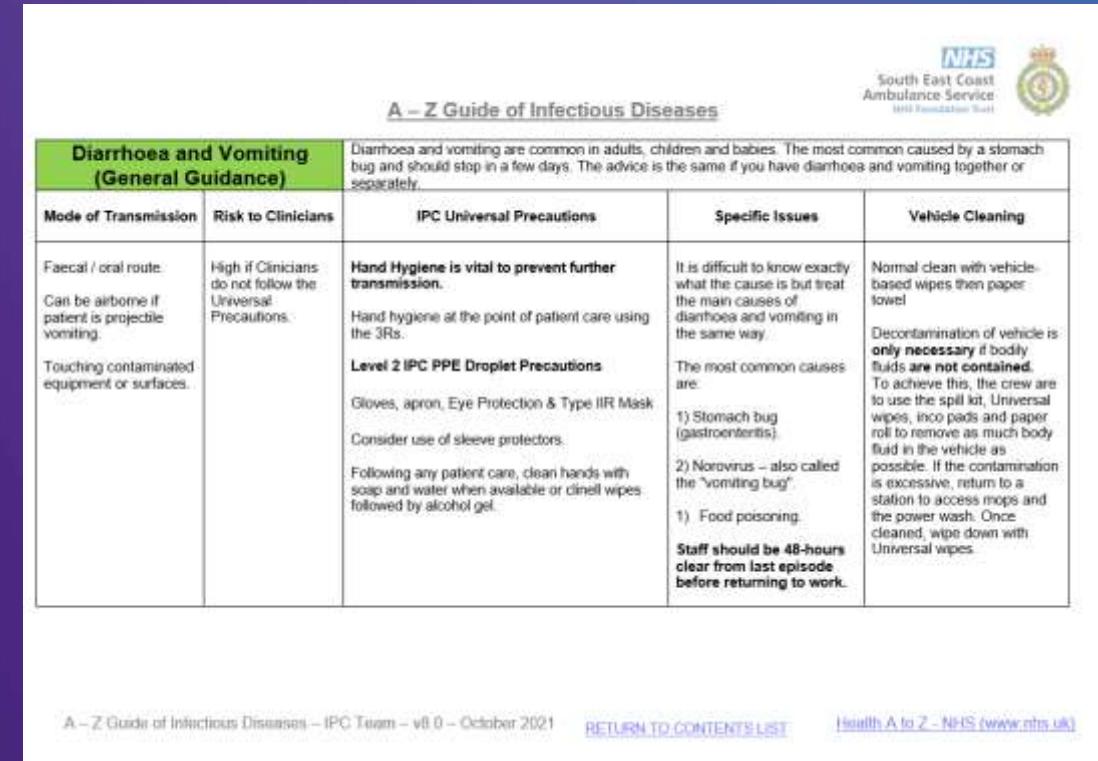
What we used to have.



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The image shows the mobile application interface for the 'A - Z of Infectious Diseases' version 8.0. The top left corner features the NHS logo and the South East Coast Ambulance Service crest. The top right corner displays the text 'V 8.0'. The main title 'A - Z of Infectious Diseases' is centered in a large, bold, white font on a black background. Below the title, there is a small image of an ambulance and the text 'Infection Prevention and Control Team'.



The image shows a table titled 'Diarrhoea and Vomiting (General Guidance)' from the 'A - Z Guide of Infectious Diseases'. The table is organized into five columns: 'Mode of Transmission', 'Risk to Clinicians', 'IPC Universal Precautions', 'Specific Issues', and 'Vehicle Cleaning'. The 'Mode of Transmission' column includes 'Faecal / oral route', 'Can be airborne if patient is projectile vomiting', and 'Touching contaminated equipment or surfaces'. The 'Risk to Clinicians' column includes 'High if Clinicians do not follow the Universal Precautions' and 'Hand hygiene at the point of patient care using the 3Rs'. The 'IPC Universal Precautions' column includes 'Hand Hygiene is vital to prevent further transmission.', 'Hand hygiene at the point of patient care using the 3Rs.', 'Level 2 IPC PPE Droplet Precautions', 'Gloves, apron, Eye Protection & Type IIR Mask', and 'Consider use of sleeve protectors'. The 'Specific Issues' column includes 'It is difficult to know exactly what the cause is but treat the main causes of diarrhoea and vomiting in the same way.', 'The most common causes are: 1) Stomach bug (gastroenteritis). 2) Norovirus – also called the "vomiting bug". 3) Food poisoning.', and 'Staff should be 48-hours clear from last episode before returning to work.' The 'Vehicle Cleaning' column includes 'Normal clean with vehicle-based wipes then paper towel', 'Decontamination of vehicle is only necessary if body fluids are not contained.', 'To achieve this, the crew are to use the spill kit, Universal wipes, inco pads and paper roll to remove as much body fluid in the vehicle as possible. If the contamination is excessive, return to a station to access mops and the power wash. Once cleaned, wipe down with Universal wipes.', and 'Normal clean with vehicle-based wipes then paper towel'.

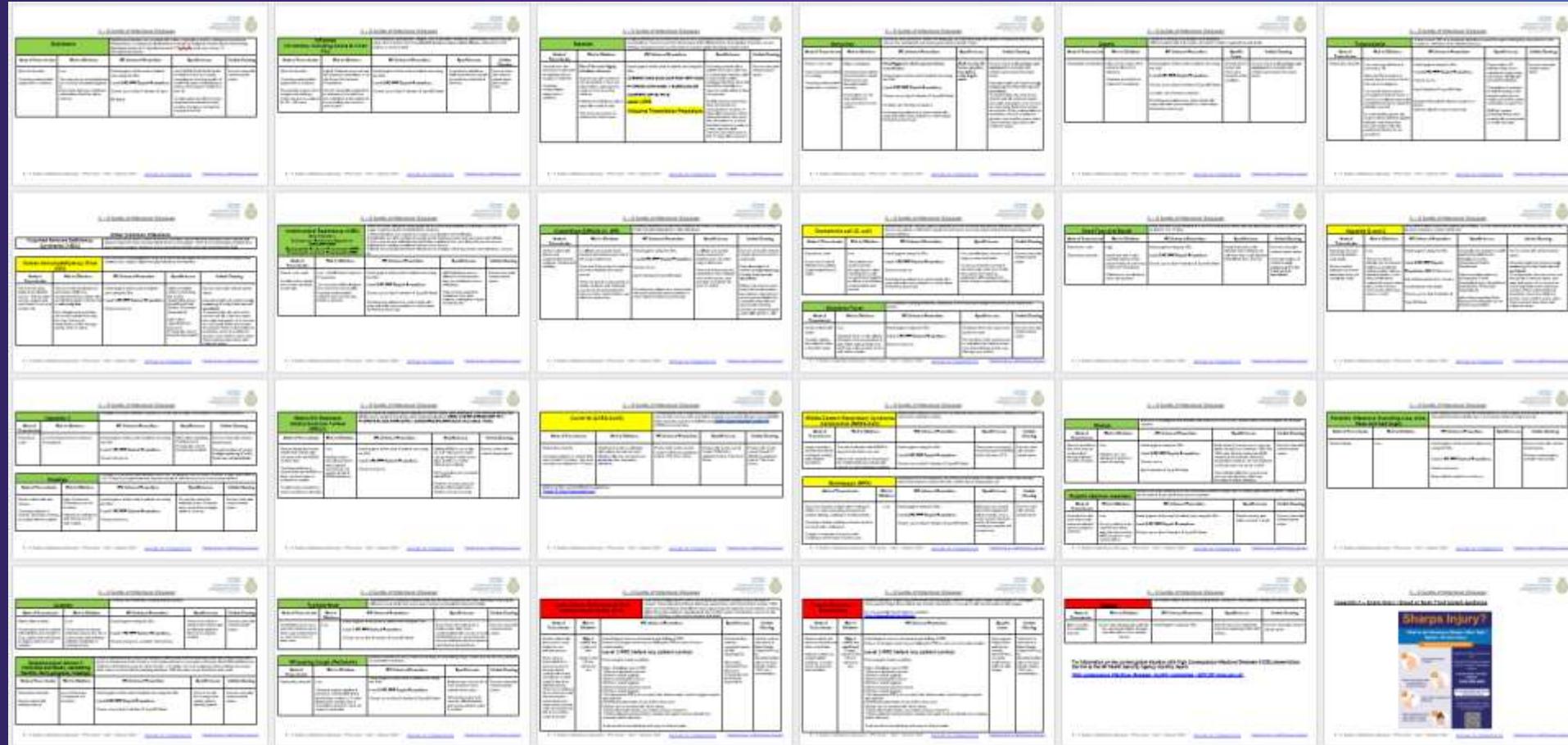
A - Z Guide of Infectious Diseases – IPC Team – v8.0 – October 2021

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[Health A to Z - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)



What we used to have.





This is where the idea came from.

999 Remote Clinical Consultation Local Procedure
April 2024 V1.1

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Navigating This Document	Tasking and Allocation	Clinical Call Prioritisation	Patient Assessment	Documentation	Duplicate Calls	Failed Call-Backs
Cat 3/4 Validations	C2 Segmentation	OD / Suicide	Urgent Community Response	Frequent Callers	Fallers Flow Chart	CAD Instruction Box
ITK Failure	Digital Admin Slip	PDS Search	Graphnet	Risk Assessed Columns	Refused Dispositions	Call Closure / Cancel Reasons
EMA Clinical Support	Agent Observe	At Risk Markers	GP Connect/ Care Connect	Make Own Way	SafeGuarding Main Page	Prevent Referrals
	Inline Support		Virtual Suggestions Box		Version History	

BNF
NICE Guidelines
TOXBASE
Electronic Medicines Compendium
CKS
Service Finder



What we have now



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IPC A-Z Guide

High Consequence Infectious Diseases HCIDs

Adenovirus	Fleas	HIV	Norovirus	Ticks	Avian Flu (H5)
Bed Bugs	Flu	Impetigo	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis	Ebola
Candida Auris	Glandular Fever	Malaria	RSV <small>Resp Syncytial Virus</small>	Typhoid Fever	Lassa Fever
CRO & CRE	GRE	Measles	Ringworm	VRE	Marburg
Chickenpox	Group A Strep (GAS)	Meningitis	Rubella	West Nile Virus	MERS
C. Difficile	Invasive GAS (iGAS)	MRSA	Scabies	Whooping Cough	Plague
Covid-19	Hand Foot and Mouth	Mpox <small>(Clade I is no longer a HCID)</small>	Scarlet Fever	Zika Virus	Rabies
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	Hepatitis A		Sepsis		
Diphtheria	Hepatitis B & C	Mumps	Shingles		
E. Coli					



South East Coast Ambulance Service

Saving Lives, Serving Our Communities

Dedicated information

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Diarrhoea and Vomiting General Guidance

[NHS Information](#)

[Link to Norovirus](#)

Transmission
Faecal / oral route.
Can be airborne if patient is projectile vomiting.
Touching contaminated equipment or surfaces.

Incubation Period
Typically, between 12 to 48 hours

Infectious Period
As a rule, whilst symptomatic and 48 hours after cessation of symptoms.

Level 2 PPE

IPC Standard Precautions
Hand hygiene using the 3Rs.
Level 2 IPC PPE
Droplet Precautions
Gloves, Apron, Eye Protection & Type IIR Mask.
IF YOU ARE WEARING A GREEN SHELL OR HI-VIZ JACKET YOU DO NOT NEED AN APRON AS WELL.

Orange / infectious waste bag for all waste

Risk to Clinicians
HIGH - if Clinicians do not follow the Standard Precautions
Staff should be 48-hours clear from last episode before returning to work

Specific Issues
Thorough vehicle decontamination is only necessary if **bodily fluids are not contained.**
Crews should clean up as much as possible, then return to station as the Make Ready Team have the necessary decontamination products.

Vehicle & Equipment Cleaning
Normal clean between every patient with Clinell wipes



We can update as the seasons change

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Infection Prevention and Control App ©

Version History v1.3 Candida Auris info added

Please give feedback on the App here

SECAmb
IP Ready
Procedure &
IPC Policy

Press here for the
A-Z Guide of Infections

SPOTLIGHT
Increase in
Norovirus
cases

NHS IPC
Manual

Sharps Injury Guidance

Skin lesions, rashes and
conditions

Please do not download or print this guide. It may
mean you are working from an out-of-date version

Make Ready &
Premises
Cleaning



Infection Prevention and Control App ©

Version History v1.2 World Hand Hygiene Day info added

Please give feedback on the App here

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SPOTLIGHT
Hand Hygiene
Day
5th May 2025

New Projects
Tiger-Stripped bags

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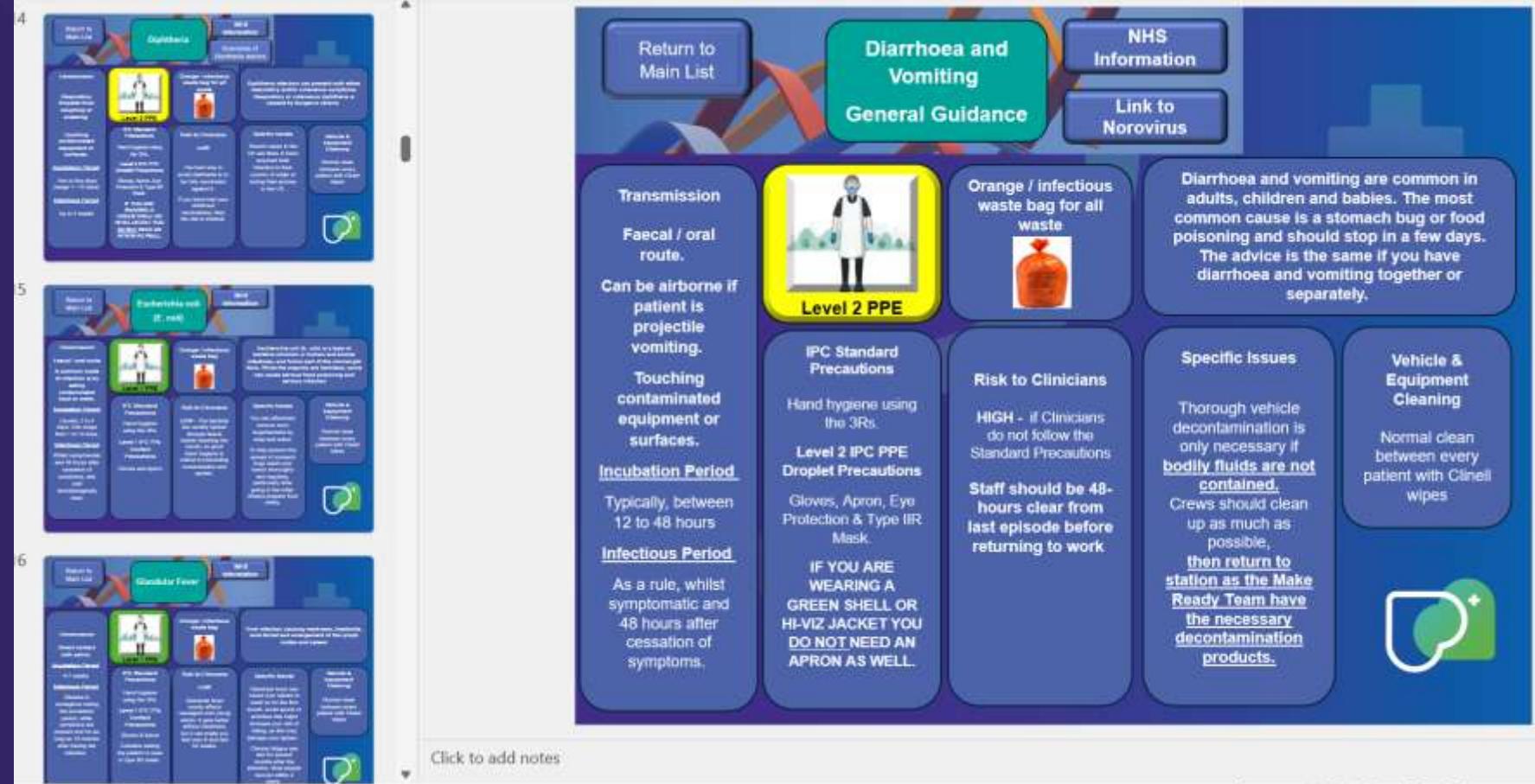
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User friendly



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Vehicle & Equipment Cleaning

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Click to add notes

Topical

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UKHSA Report an increase in Norovirus Cases

Confirmed Norovirus cases in the 2 weeks from 3 to 16 February 2025 were **29.4%** higher than the previous fortnight and more than double the 5-season average (168.0%) for the same 2-week period

Wash it real good!
Washing your hands regularly can help stop norovirus spreading

Level 2 PPE

You only need 10-100 viral particles to make you ill. Which is why hand hygiene and vehicle and equipment cleaning is vital in keeping patients and you safe.

5th of May

Remember your 3Rs
Click on the image above for more information

World Hand Hygiene Day

Remember: germs are everywhere, so it's important to clean your hands regularly

HAJJ 2025

In the past 16 months, there have been 54 cases of invasive Meningitis. Twelve cases were known to have recently travelled to KSA of whom six were identified as Umrah pilgrims.

Level 2 PPE
For suspected Meningitis

Level 3 PPE
For suspected MERS

Link to Norovirus Tab

Link to the WHO World Hand Hygiene Day Pages

Link to Meningitis Tab

Link to MERS Tab

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Guidance at your finger tips.

Flowchart to determine Operational Case Definition of MPox

YES

Patient presents with unexplained lesions (for example, vesicles, pustules or ulcers) compatible with MPox anywhere on the body. (Link below to further guidance)

Guidance on Suspected Mpox Cases

NO

The bottom of the slide features three photographs illustrating skin lesions. The first image shows a close-up of a man's nose and upper lip with a small vesicle. The second image shows two dark-skinned hands with multiple vesicles and pustules. The third image is a close-up of a person's hand with a single vesicle on the middle finger.



Sharps Injury?

What to do following a Sharps / Bite / Spit / Splash / Scratch Injury

IMMEDIATE FIRST AID ACTIONS

- 1 Encourage wound to bleed
- 2 Wash with soap under running water or alcohol hand gel
- 3 Cover with a waterproof dressing
- 4 Rinse splashes to the eyes, face or mouth with water or saline: continue to wash them for 15 minutes if wearing them.

Present to an ED as soon as you can

Please complete a Datax form as soon as you can.

Following ED attendance please contact the Optima Needlestick Helpline
0330 008 5969

This is a 24-hour service.

If further advice is needed, please use the QR code below or contact your Duty Team Leader.

Important: Do not delay - go directly to the Emergency Department if you have, or suspect that you have been exposed to Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV.

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Communication aide for new projects

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Infection Prevention and Control App

Projects the IPC Team
are working on



The New Tiger-Striped
Waste Bags



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What happens to our waste?

WASTE TYPE	DISPOSAL PROCESS	COST	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
SHARPS	INCINERATED	EEEEEE	趾趾趾趾趾趾
INFECTIOUS	STEAM TREATED TO KILL THE BUGS	EEEE	趾趾趾趾
OFFENSIVE	PULPED AND TO ENERGY PLANT	EEE	趾趾趾
DOMESTIC	TO ENERGY PLANT	EE	趾趾
RECYCLING	RECYCLED	E	趾

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FAQs for tiger-striped (offensive) waste bags



All healthcare providers produce waste and it is a legal requirement that it is segregated and disposed of properly. Both by SECAmb and the clinician who creates it.

While there are many different healthcare waste streams, we in the Ambulance Service have the difficulty of restricted space in our vehicles. Traditionally, we have used the Orange (infectious) waste bags as we would not know the infectious status of the patient.

This has been reviewed and only waste from confirmed infectious patients or where there is a high suspicion should be put into orange bags.

All other healthcare waste should be put into tiger-striped (offensive) waste bags, which will soon be part of the standard load list for vehicles.

Click here for further
information and FAQs

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As 85% of healthcare waste is not hazardous or infectious (WHO, 2014), we need to use the right waste stream.
This is Tiger-striped (offensive) waste bags.

In 2020-2021, the amount of CO₂ produced to treat our waste was equivalent to a car driving to the moon!

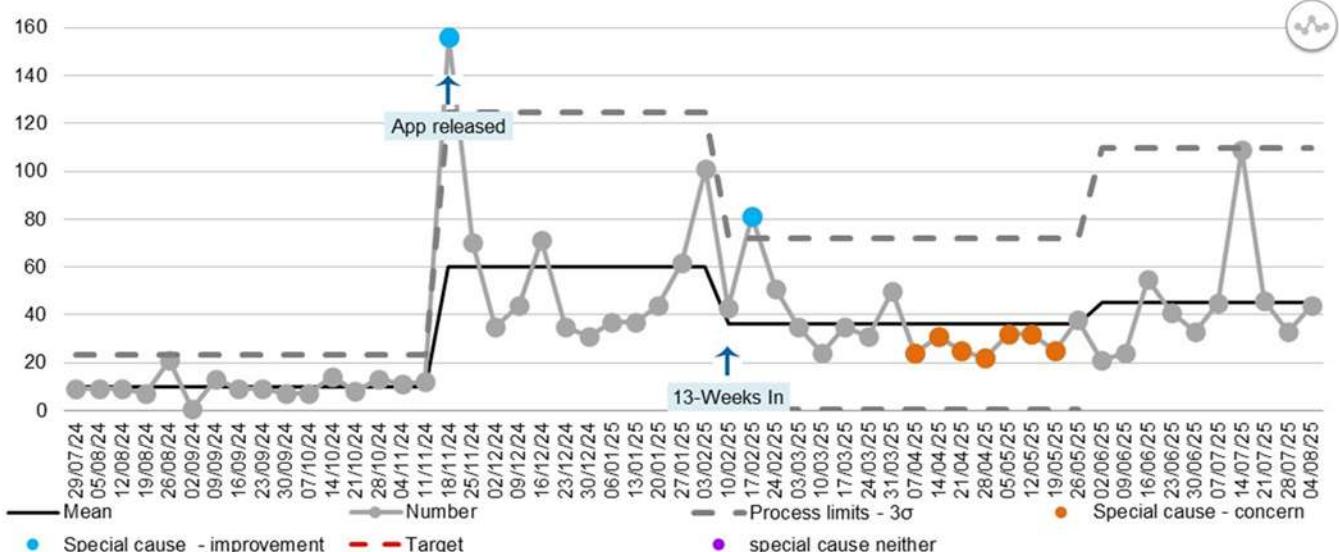


So, what improvements have we seen?



We only had 10 views on average per week.

IPC App - Viewers Per Week- starting 29/07/24



On release, there was an average of

60 viewers per week

13 weeks after publication, we are seeing

45 viewers per week

Award winning



- IPS award for Excellence and Innovation. 2025
- Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) Award for 'Outstanding Champion of Innovation or Change' which we will receive in March 2026

Next adventures

- Currently developing a glow video with Gama.
- Statutory and Mandatory training using the App
- HCID training.

HCID Assessment PPE Courses at SECAmb



- All acute hospitals in England now have a unified HCID PPE, in place in the event of a patient walking into their hospital with a suspected HCID.
- Staff responsible for assessing that patient are required to be trained in the PPE ahead of that event. NHS England set a target of March 2025 for staff to be qualified.
- This has been hindered by only having one training venue in the UK (run by HCID Training UK in Sheffield).



Local HCID training for the SE

- SECAmb can now offer a HCID PPE Trainer course in West Sussex.

This course is a result of guidance and governance of HCID Training UK.

They are open for bookings, with courses running from January 2025.

HCID A PPE Trainer Course cost: £850
HCID A PPE Wearer Course cost: £550

To book visit: hcid-training.co.uk

Or contact Matt.Hopkins@SECAmb.NHS.UK for more information.





Thank you

Any Questions?

