The Role of the Infection Prevention & Control Lead
(Primary Care)

The Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance (2008) requires every Primary Care provider to have an Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Lead.

The IPC Lead is responsible for the local infection prevention and control programme. Briefly, this involves identifying the risks to the practice, its patients and staff from infection, and taking responsibility for implementing and monitoring actions to manage those risks.

The IPC lead can be anyone in the organisation provided they receive the necessary training and have the authority to challenge inappropriate practice. The role of IPC Lead should be included in the person’s Job Description and they should be supported to undertake the role.
The IPC Lead is the focal point for Infection Prevention. However, the IPC Lead does not necessarily need to
do all of the work above themselves. There may be another designated lead for cleaning and
decontamination, for example, or responsibility for audits may rotate so that all staff have an appreciation
of current requirements.

Useful resources for the IPC Lead include:

Infection prevention Society: http://www.ips.uk.net/

Royal College of Nursing Infection Prevention forum: http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice/infection_control

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**IPC Lead (for insertion into standard Job Description)**

Nominated Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Lead

Perform the role of designated Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Lead for XXXXXXX in compliance with

The IPC Lead will have:

- The appropriate knowledge and skills to take responsibility for infection prevention or be given
suitable training to perform the role of IPC Lead;
- Have the authority to challenge inappropriate practice.

The IPC Lead will develop and manage the annual IPC programme, to include:

- Leading the practice’s collective responsibility for preventing and controlling infection and
assessing the measures needed to reduce such risks;
- Review of all policies, procedures and guidance and if necessary development of new guidance;
- Overseeing the audit programme to demonstrate adherence to policies and guidelines and
compliance with clinical procedures;
- Co-ordination of initial induction and on-going recurrent training for all staff in infection
prevention.

The IPC Lead will produce an annual statement covering the following list of activities that is available to
view on request:

- Completed IPC risk assessment;
- IPC audits, outcomes and subsequent actions;
- Known infection transmission and subsequent actions;
- Training received by staff;
- Reviewed and updated policies, procedures and guidance.