### WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

**Issue Date:** 5 June 2015

#### STATUS: ACTION & INFORMATION

#### CATEGORY: QUALITY AND SAFETY

**Title:** ASEPTIC NON TOUCH TECHNIQUE (ANTT): IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL STANDARDISED APPROACH

**Date of Expiry/Review:** 3 June 2016

### For action by Board:
- Chairs
- Chief Executives
- Board Secretaries
- Secretary to the Board Secretary Group
- Medical Directors
- Directors of Public Health
- Infection Control Doctors & Nurses
- Hospital Chief Pharmacists
- PHW HCAI & AMR Programme Leads
- CCDCs
- NHS Direct Wales
- NWSSP for distribution to GP practices, community pharmacies & General Dental Practices
- Ambulance Trust

### For Welsh Government action (or information):
- DG/Chief Executive NHS Wales
- Deputy Chief Exec NHS Wales
- Professional & Policy Leads
- DHSS Operations Team
- DHSS Comms Team
- DHSS Digital Team

**Action required by:** See paragraph 7

### Sender:
Jean White CNO/Ruth Hussey CMO

### DHSS Welsh Government Contact(s):
Rhian Pound-McCarthy, HCAIs & Blood Safety Policy Branch
rhian.pound-mccarthy@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 029 2082 6440

### Enclosure(s):
None
ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE

1. ‘Aseptic technique’ is a term applied to a set of specific practices and procedures used to assure asepsis and prevent the transfer of potentially pathogenic micro-organisms to a susceptible site on the body (e.g. an open wound or insertion site for an invasive medical device) or to sterile equipment/devices. Further information is available in the epic3: Evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare associated infections in NHS hospital in England - revised in December 2014.

2. The aseptic technique is an essential element of the prevention of healthcare associated infections (HCAIs).

3. In December 2011, all healthcare organisations were asked to ‘adopt a single standardised approach to aseptic non touch technique’ and to ‘review their policies, procedures, training and audit of practice with regards to aseptic technique’.

4. The epic guidelines also recommend that organisations should:
   - provide education to ensure that healthcare workers are trained and competent in performing the aseptic technique; and
   - the aseptic technique should be used for any procedure that breeches the body’s natural defences, including the:
     - insertion and maintenance of invasive devices;
     - infusion of sterile fluids and medication; and
     - care of wounds and surgical incisions.

5. As identified in the NICE accredited epic3 guidelines (previously commended to NHS Wales), inconsistencies in the use of the term and applications of the principles of asepsis in clinical practice have been addressed in a framework referred to as the aseptic non touch technique (ANTT).

6. ANTT has not been widely adopted across NHS organisations. In order for healthcare organisations to adopt a standardised approach and accelerate local training and education initiatives, Public Health Wales (PHW) is facilitating, with the support of the Welsh Government, the roll-out of ANTT. Wales will be the first UK country to work with the Association of Safe Aseptic Practice (ASAP) to implement ANTT on a national basis.

7. Beginning with two national launch events and ‘trainer the trainer’ sessions, roll-out will be through the cascade method of ‘one-to-one’ training. Details of how to register for the first two events were circulated to the NHS by PHW. Any queries can be referred to Mari Morgan or Karen Jones.

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1 Epic 3 Guidelines
2 Eliminating preventable HCAIs: A framework of actions
3 mari.morgan@wales.nhs.uk/karen.jones42@wales.nhs.uk
8. A third event is being arranged specifically aimed at clinical trainers.

9. Health Boards/Trusts should ensure appropriate representation at the launch/training events and that attendees are capable of demonstrating leadership and championing ANTT implementation and training on return to their organisation.

10. It is anticipated that attendees will include representation from infection prevention and control; practice development; continence care; and IV device co-ordinators from both primary and secondary care.

11. It is important that you provide PHW with contact details for everyone attending as some pre-event reading will be required and attendees will also need to bring examples of medical devices used in their organisation to practice on.

12. Following the launch events NHS organisations will have full access to the wide range of ANTT resources available including the recently developed e learning module which will be hosted on the Learning platform for NHS Wales at:

   https://learning.wales.nhs.uk/

13. Further and more detailed information on what ANTT is and the organisation ASAP can be found at:

   ASAP

   ANTT

14. Should Health Boards/Trusts require further local training events facilitated directly by ANTT/ASAP then these will need to be funded locally.

**Standardisation of procedure packs**

15. To support ANTT compliance, NHS Wales Shared Services - Procurement Services are working with healthcare organisations to make available standardised procedure packs for frequently undertaken procedures such as insertion of peripheral intravenous lines and urinary catheters.

16. During July 2015 NWSSP – Procurement Services will establish two short term task and finish working groups with representation from all Health Boards/Trusts to agree a national specification for packs with a view to procured packs being available in the autumn.