

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 9 October 2015



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

STATUS: ACTION & INFORMATION

CATEGORY: QUALITY AND SAFETY

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

Date of Expiry/Review: September 2016

For action by Board:

Chairs
Chief Executives
Board Secretaries
Secretary to the Board Secretary Group
Nurse Directors
Medical Directors
Directors of Public Health
Infection Control Doctors & Nurses
Hospital Chief Pharmacists
PHW HCAI & AMR Programme Leads & CCDCs
CNHS 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

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Enclosure(s): None

1. As highlighted in the Welsh Health Circular issued in June 2015 (WHC/2015/026), Public Health Wales (PHW) is facilitating the roll-out of a standardised approach to training in and implementation of aseptic technique (Aseptic Non-Touch Technique – ANTT) for clinical procedures across Wales.
2. Good aseptic technique is an important factor in preventing device associated infections. New national targets for reducing healthcare associated bacteraemia will soon be issued and prevention of device-associated infections through compliance with ANTT will help organisations to achieve the necessary reductions. Within this context, Chief Executives can expect to be held to account for ensuring that the roll-out of ANTT is facilitated fully and effectively within their organisation.
3. Initially focus was on the roll-out within the secondary care organisations through three *Train the trainer* events in Swansea, St Asaph and Cardiff during June and July 2015 involving more than 150 representatives from health boards, NHS Trusts and primary care together with academic staff from Bangor, Cardiff, South Wales and Swansea Universities who provide pre-registration training for students.
4. Following the success of these events, it is important that healthcare organisations roll-out ANTT training to all relevant staff within the organisation. An ANTT lead should be nominated to provide local leadership for the roll-out and participate in a PHW-led Steering Group that will allow sharing of best practice and guide on future developments such as roll out in primary care.
5. The first task within each organisation is to ensure that the baseline audits of current aseptic practice are carried out. Details of these audits were provided at the training events. They are essential for organisations to identify where training needs to be focused. A number of organisations have conducted audits in some areas and submitted their results to the Association for Safe Aseptic Practice but more are required. Aggregate results will be returned once sufficient numbers of audits have been received.
6. NHS staff can access the audit tools, as well as other ANTT information, from the PHW intranet site available at: <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/antt>
7. Academic staff can access the ANTT resources from the PHW internet site available at: www.publichealthwales.org/antt. A password is required to access these resources on the internet and academic staff should contact Mari Morgan (mari.morgan@wales.nhs.uk) or Karen Jones (karen.jones42@wales.nhs.uk) for the password details.
8. Both NHS and academic staff can access the ANTT e-learning programme via the NHS Wales Learning Platform, available at: <https://learning.wales.nhs.uk>

The course is located under the 'Health & Safety' heading, then 'Patient Care'. Users will need to set up an account on the learning platform if they do not already have one.

9. For health boards/trusts where no staff have been formally ANTT competency-assessed, an additional event is being planned to provide these assessments. Staff attending this event will be expected to have already completed the e-learning package and be familiar with the resources prior to attendance. These staff will then be expected to conduct these competency assessments within their organisation. Further information about this event will be provided to you directly from Public Health Wales.