

Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust is committed to the prevention and control of infection and to providing care which is in line with the Health and Social Care Act (2008) and its Code of Practice (the Hygiene Code), last updated in 2022, to ensure that no patient is harmed due to an avoidable Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI).

The Board of the Trust is assured that the following are in place, in line with the Health and Social Care Act (2008) and its Code of Practice (the Hygiene Code), last updated in 2022, to ensure that systems and processes are in place to prevent and control infection within all Trust provided services.

- Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust meets statutory requirements in relation to the Hygiene Code.
- Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has an Infection Prevention and Control Strategy and policies in place to ensure best practice and to reduce HCAs
- All staff in Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (clinical and non-clinical) are provided with infection prevention and control training, which includes practical training and assessment in hand hygiene. The training is mandatory for all staff, and compliance is monitored centrally by the Learning and Development Department and reported to the Infection Prevention and Control Committee (IPCC) and the Board.
- All Infection Prevention and Control trust policies are reviewed and reflect current best practice and national guidance.
- The Board level executive lead with the responsibility for infection prevention and control in Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust is the Director of Infection Prevention and Control (DIPC) ensuring that infection prevention and control is prioritised on the quality agenda.
- Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has an Infection Prevention and Control Team with responsibility for delivering the Infection Prevention and Control Strategy and annual plan.
- Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has a bi-monthly Infection Prevention and Control Committee, which is chaired by the DIPC.
- There is an annual plan, including audit programme, to monitor compliance with the infection prevention and control policies and guidelines.
- The Board reviews infection prevention and control across the organisation, on a regular basis, through the IPCC and the Integrated Performance Report. The Quality committee receives a report from the IPCC which is reported to the Board. The Trust's board receives an annual report on infection prevention and control from the DIPC.