

**Welsh Assembly Government – Consultations and Papers**

<b>Title of Consultation</b>	<b>Healthcare Associated Infections – A community Strategy for Wales</b>
<b>Date</b>	January 2007
<b>Website address</b>	<a href="http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/healandsoccarecurrcons/infections/?lang=en">http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/healandsoccarecurrcons/infections/?lang=en</a>
<b>Overview</b>	<p>Healthcare professionals from across Wales are being asked for their views on the new strategy which aims to reduce infection in the community from organisms such as Influenza, Norovirus, MRSA and Clostridium Difficile.</p> <p>The draft strategy has been developed following a similar successful approach for hospitals launched in 2004.</p> <p>It has been developed to highlight best practice in infection control and make all organisations aware of their responsibilities in combating infections.</p> <p>The guidance will be aimed at a wide range of individuals and organisations that provide healthcare in the community including GPs, nursing homes, physiotherapists and dental practices.</p> <p>The document includes a range of actions that healthcare organisations and professionals can take to stop patients, residents and healthcare workers from becoming infected as a result of receiving care in community healthcare facilities.</p> <p>Implementing national infection control standards, training and education, and, audit and surveillance are all key elements of the draft strategy</p>
<b>Implications for community pharmacy</b>	<p>The consultation has a number of implications for providers of primary care services namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioning bodies will ensure that the standards are applied in nursing and residential homes.</li> <li>• LHBs will monitor that GP practices and dental practices have infection control processes in place.</li> <li>• Infection control to be included on the training programme for all community healthcare staff.</li> <li>• Community based healthcare providers must have access to an occupational health service. This should provide appropriate health screening and immunisation at the commencement of employment particularly where there is potential exposure to blood borne viruses.</li> </ul> <p>Although the document does not mention community pharmacy as being one of the professions that comes under the umbrella of this guidance, community pharmacists involved in extended services such as Syringe and Needle Exchange Schemes and Point of Care Testing need to be aware of the need to ensure relevant staff receive immunisation against BBV and that there are robust procedures to deal with spillage of contaminated products and needle stick injuries.</p>

<b>Opportunities for community pharmacy</b>	The are no obvious opportunities in the consultation for extended or enhanced services.
<b>CPW: action taken</b>	CPW has responded to the consultation seeking support from NHS occupational health services for community pharmacy contractors involved in extended services which could result in exposure to BBVs. CPW have also asked for the same level of immunisation protection as other healthcare workers providing NHS services to patients