

## **Equality Impact Assessment:**

VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS (NOROVIRUS) INFECTION CONTROL IN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD HOSPITALS PROCEDURE (2014).

### **Section A: Assessment**

**Name of Policy:** VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS (NOROVIRUS) INFECTION CONTROL IN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD HOSPITALS PROCEDURE

**Person/persons conducting this assessment with Contact Details:**

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**Date:** 20/11/2014

#### **1. The Policy**

**Is this a new or existing policy?**

Update to the existing procedure.

**What is the purpose of the policy?**

To provide a structure and appropriate advice to staff for the management of viral gastro-enteritis at all UHB hospitals.

**How do the aims of the policy fit in with corporate priorities? i.e. Corporate Plan**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) accepts its responsibility under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002, to take all reasonable precautions to prevent exposure to viral gastroenteritis in patients, staff and other persons working at or using its premises.

In order to prevent the possible spread of viral gastroenteritis amongst patients and staff it is recognised that the UHB requires a procedural document to ensure effective management of infection. This is especially necessary in the case of an infectious incident/outbreak, as detailed in the Infection Control Procedure for Infectious Incidents and Outbreaks 2012

The procedure is supported by the UHB's 'Framework for the Management and Reduction of Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance' (Draft April 2014)

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The UHB Infection Prevention and Control Group is responsible for the approval of the procedure

### **Who will benefit from the policy?**

Patients, their visitors and UHB staff will benefit from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be reduced. The UHB will benefit organisationally and financially from reducing the impact and cost of the transmission of viral gastroenteritis.

### **What outcomes are wanted from this policy?**

To describe the actions required on the admission of a patient with known or suspected viral gastro-enteritis.

To provide the actions required when a case develops in a UHB hospital.

To provide advice on the action required during an infectious incident or outbreak situation caused by viral gastroenteritis (see also the Infection Control Procedure for Infectious Incidents and Outbreaks 2012).

To provide advice on the communications necessary whenever a cluster of cases of viral gastroenteritis develops amongst patients and/or staff.

### **Are there any factors that might prevent outcomes being achieved? (e.g. Training/practice/culture/human or financial resources)**

Achievement of the procedure's objectives is dependent on staff awareness of the procedure, therefore, the level of staff training and education will influence the successful implementation of the policy. There will be no additional cost implication due to the revision of this procedure. No human resource issues have been identified.

## **2. Data Collection**

An internet search was conducted on 20.11.2014 using the following search terms in combination "viral gastroenteritis", "policy", "procedure", "equality impact. The search revealed several equality impact assessments on Viral Gastroenteritis. Examples can be found by following the links below:

<http://www.tamesidehospital.nhs.uk/documents/ViralGastroenteritisPolicy.pdf>

<http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/AboutUs/Policies/Viral%20Gastroenteritis%20Policy%20V1.00.pdf>

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<http://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/docs/trust/diversity/impact%20assessments/Viral%20gastroenteritis%202009.pdf>

[http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/policies/documents/clinical\\_policies/yellow\\_infection\\_control/Yellow\\_610\\_Management\\_of\\_Outbreak\\_of\\_Viral\\_D\\_and\\_V.pdf](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/policies/documents/clinical_policies/yellow_infection_control/Yellow_610_Management_of_Outbreak_of_Viral_D_and_V.pdf)

### 3. Impact

The internet search found several comparable policies all finding no impact.

#### **Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their age?**

There was no direct evidence found from the above evidence search. However, patients, their visitors UHB staff of all age groups will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be minimised.

#### **Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their caring responsibilities?**

There was no direct evidence found from the above evidence search. However, patients, their carers, and UHB staff will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be minimised.

#### **Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their disability? (This includes Visual impairment, hearing impairment, physically disabled, Learning disability, some mental health issues, HIV positive, multiple sclerosis, cancer, diabetes and epilepsy.)**

There was no direct evidence found from the above evidence search. However, all patients, their visitors and all UHB staff will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be minimised.

#### **Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of Gender reassignment? (This includes Trans transgender and transvestites)**

There was no direct evidence found from the above evidence search. However, all patients, their visitors and all UHB staff will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be minimised.

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**Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their being married or in a civil partnership?**

There was no direct evidence found from the above evidence search. However, all patients, their visitors and all UHB staff will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be minimised.

**Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their being pregnant or just having had a baby?**

There was no direct evidence found from the above evidence search. However, all patients, their visitors and all UHB staff will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be minimised.

**Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their race? (This includes colour, nationality and citizenship or ethnic or national origin such as Gypsy and Traveller Communities.)**

There was no direct evidence found from the above evidence search. However all patients, their visitors and all UHB staff will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be minimised.

**Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their religion, belief or non-belief? (Religious groups cover a wide range of groupings the most of which are Buddhist, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, and Sikhs. Consider these categories individually and collectively when considering impacts)**

There was no direct evidence found from the above evidence search. However all patients, their visitors and all UHB staff will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be minimised.

**Do you think that the policy impacts on men and woman in different ways?**

There was no direct evidence found from the above evidence search. However all patients, their families, their visitors and all UHB staff will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be minimised.

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**Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their sexual orientation? (This includes Gay men, heterosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals)**

No evidence found following consultation with LGBT Rainbow Network (by telephone 04/12/14)

**Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their Welsh language?**

Consultation with the UHB'S Welsh Language Officer (Alun Williams) similarly found no negative impact on Welsh speaking individuals.

The Procedure for implementation by clinical staff is in English and therefore has a low impact on the Welsh Language. However, the procedure links to the Period of Increased Incidence Pack which contains signage for communicating to patients and visitors. This signage is available in both Welsh and English. If patients require information to be communicated in the Welsh Language then staff are encouraged to facilitate this.

### **3. Summary.**

**Which equality groups have positive or negative impacts been identified for (i.e. differential impact).**

No negative impacts specific to any equality group have been identified.

**Is the policy directly or indirectly discriminatory under the equalities legislation?**

The evidence reviewed did not highlight any issues that suggested that the policy would lead to direct or indirect discrimination.

**If the policy is indirectly discriminatory can it be justified under the relevant legislation?**

Not applicable

### **Section B: Action**

**5. Please complete your action plan below. Issues you are likely to need to address include**

**•What consultation needs to take place with equality groups (bearing in mind any relevant consultation already done and any planned corporate consultation activities?)**

No further consultation required.

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- **What monitoring/evaluation will be required to further assess the impact of any changes on equality target groups?**

No further monitoring required.

#### **Equalities Impact Assessment Implementation Mitigation/Action Plan**

Not required as no negative impact found.

#### **6. Report, publication and Review**

**Please record details of the report or file note which records the outcome of the EQIA together with any actions / recommendations being pursued (date, type of report etc).**

The Infection Prevention and Control Group is responsible for the approval of the procedure and EQIA at their meeting.

#### **Please record details of where and when EQIA results will be published**

Once the policy has been approved the documentation will be placed on the intranet and internet.

#### **Please record below when the EQIA will be subject to review.**

November 2017.

**Name of person completing** Helen Ronchetti CNS IP&C

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 08/01/2015

#### **Name of Responsible Executive/Clinical Board Director Authorising Assessment and Action Plan for publication:**

Ruth Walker Executive Director of Nursing

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Appendix 4**

#### **Format for publication of EQIA results**

#### **Executive Summary**

The searches and consultations outlined in this document have demonstrated that the VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS (NOROVIRUS) INFECTION CONTROL

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IN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD HOSPITALS PROCEDURE (2014) does not impact negatively on any specific equality group.

## **Background**

The purpose of the policy is to provide a structure and appropriate advice to staff for the management of viral gastro-enteritis at all UHB hospitals.

In order to prevent the possible spread of viral gastroenteritis amongst patients and staff it is recognised that the UHB requires a procedural document to ensure effective management of infection.

The EQIA was undertaken by a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Infection Prevention and Control.

## **The scope of the EQIA**

The internet search found several comparable policies all finding no negative impact on any of the specific equality groups.

Consultation with the LGBT Rainbow Network found that the procedure has no negative impact on individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation.

Consultation with the UHB'S Welsh Language Officer (Alun Williams) similarly found no negative impact on Welsh speaking individuals. The procedure directs users to several Welsh language resources for patients and visitors.

## **Key findings**

The assessment found no evidence of any negative impact on any of the specific equality groups. On the contrary, all patients, their families, their visitors and all UHB staff will gain from adherence to the policy in that the risk of transmission of viral gastroenteritis will be reduced.

## **Recommendations**

The assessment found no evidence of any negative impact on any of the specific equality groups. As such, there are no changes required to the proposed procedure on the grounds of impact on the specific equality groups.