

Infection Control

Recent articles and reports

Jul 17 – Dec 17

Articles

The following journal articles are available from the Library and Knowledge Service electronically or in print.

[Adjunctive antibiotics for drained skin abscesses improve clinical cure rate](#)

Talan D A. *Evidence-Based Medicine* 2017;22(6):214.

In settings in which MRSA skin infections are common, such as the USA, adjunctive antibiotics lead to a higher short-term cure rate and less frequent recurrence for a drained skin abscess of any size. Since drainage alone has a high cure rate, the benefits, costs and risks associated with adjunctive antibiotic treatment can be discussed with the patient as part of shared decision-making.

[Clinicians should assess the benefits and risks of using bezlotoxumab for reducing the risk of recurrent Clostridium difficile infection](#)

Hassouna H. *Evidence-Based Medicine* 2017;22(4):150 - 151.

Clostridium difficile is an anaerobic gram-positive spore-forming bacillus that plays a major role in healthcare antibiotic-associated diarrhoea. The high burden of recurrence and increased healthcare costs associated with C. difficile infection (CDI) have encouraged the development of new treatments to prevent recurrence including the use of pulsed/tapered oral vancomycin, fidaxomicin and faecal microbiota transplantation

[Early planned removal of umbilical venous catheters to prevent infection in newborn infants.](#)

Gordon A. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017;(10):CD012142.

Currently available trial data are insufficient to show whether early planned removal of umbilical venous catheters reduces risk of infection, mortality, or other morbidity in newborn infants. A large, simple, and pragmatic randomised controlled trial is needed to resolve this ongoing uncertainty.

Freely available online

[Getting hand hygiene right. \[Editorial\]](#)

Nicholson J. *British Journal of Nursing* 2017;26(14):S3-S3.

The article discusses environmental hygiene and infection control in hospitals. It reports that the most possible healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs) are bloodstream infections (BSIs) that occur in patients with a vascular access device, such as vascular catheter. Emphasis is given to topics such as hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, and asepsis.

[Getting the basics right: why we should focus on infection prevention.](#)

Voegeli D. *British Journal of Nursing* 2017;26(16):914-914.

The article presents the author's views on infection prevention and quality control in British hospitals, including the role of nursing in this regard. The author suggests alternative approaches to the antimicrobial resistance. Consequences of the over-use of antibiotics, the impact of antimicrobial resistance on human health, and strategic management to reduce infection are also discussed.

[Infection prevention and control is everyone's business.](#)

Carr P. *British Journal of Healthcare Assistants* 2017;11(8):386 - 387.

[Minimising central line-associated bloodstream infection rate in inserting central venous catheters in the adult intensive care units.](#)

Hina HR. *Journal of Clinical Nursing* 2017;(March):epub.

Aims and objectives: To investigate the procedural aspects in inserting central venous catheters that minimise central line-associated bloodstream infection rates in adult intensive care units through a structured literature review.

[Oral decontamination techniques and ventilator-associated pneumonia.](#)

Chacko R. *British Journal of Nursing* 2017;26(11):594-599.

Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) is one of the major nosocomial infections in the intensive care unit (ICU), contributing to increased mortality and morbidity. Studies have shown that oral decontamination significantly reduces the incidence of VAP, but oral care practices in ICUs are not consistent. A doubleblind RCT was undertaken in the medical ICU of a tertiary care centre in India, to assess the efficacy of a toothbrush-based oral care technique in reducing incidence of VAP.

[Prescribing antibiotics to hospitalised patients increases the risk of Clostridium difficile infection for the next bed occupant](#)

Daneman N. *Evidence-Based Medicine* 2017;22(6):212.

This study suggests that colonised patients contribute to the risk of C. difficile transmission in hospital, and strengthens the growing evidence base for routine C. difficile screening. The study highlights the importance of terminal room cleaning to decrease environmental colonisation with C. difficile spores, and suggests that enhanced cleaning may be required after admission of an antibiotic-treated patient—even if C. difficile infection is not diagnosed in that patient.

[Probiotics for the prevention of Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea in adults and children.](#)

Goldenberg JZ. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017;(12):CD006095.

Based on this systematic review and meta-analysis of 31 randomized controlled trials including 8672 patients, moderate certainty evidence suggests that probiotics are effective for preventing CDAD (NNTB = 42 patients, 95% CI 32 to 58).

Freely available online

[Recognising the value of infection prevention and its role in addressing the antimicrobial resistance crisis. \[Viewpoint\]](#)

Harris A. *BMJ Quality & Safety* 2017;26(8):683 - 686.

"Although hospital epidemiology and infection prevention programmes are being tasked with more, this increase in demand has not been met with a commensurate increase in compensation or personnel. Increased surveillance and reporting requirements combined with flat or decreasing budgets creates the unintended consequence of taking the focus away from patient-focused infection prevention duties."

[The buzz is coming: are you ready to 'bee' a flu fighter?](#)

Laplana JP. *British Journal of Nursing* 2017;26(16): 916-917.

The article presents the author's views on the importance of flu vaccination. According to the author, refusal to have the vaccination puts people at risk to be killed and they could infect other people. The author offers recommendations on creating an online game called Flu Bee game that raises awareness of flu and increase vaccine uptake.

Guidelines

The following new guidance has recently been published:

Essential Practice for Infection Prevention and Control: Guidance for nursing staff.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN); 2017.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-005940>

The prevention and management of infection is the responsibility of all staff working in health and social care and is an integral element of patient safety programmes. This updated publication provides important information and guidance on the essential principles of infection prevention and control and highlights why other issues, such as nutrition and hydration, should be viewed as an essential complementary component of nursing practice.

Freely available online

Reports

The following report(s) may be of interest:

Creating a Strategic Focus to Support the Prevention of Infection.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN); 2017.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-006602>

This statement outlines the RCN's position on priorities for action to support improvements in the preventing infection within health and care settings to accompany revision of the UK strategy on antimicrobial resistance.

Freely available online

NIHR Signal: Faecal transplant effectively treats recurrent or unresponsive Clostridium difficile.

NIHR Dissemination Centre; 2017.

<https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/portal/article?id=SIG-5000506>

Using a faecal microbiota transplant cured 92% of people with Clostridium difficile that had recurred or had not responded to antibiotics. Faecal transplant also had a lower risk of treatment failure than the antibiotic vancomycin.

Freely available online

NIHR Signal: Humidified oxygen linked to increased chest infections.

NIHR Dissemination Centre; 2017.

<https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/portal/article?id=SIG-5000467>

More respiratory infections in adults followed the use of humidified oxygen compared with non-humidified low-flow oxygen therapy. Bacterial contamination was common in the humidified oxygen bottles across various hospital departments including respiratory wards. UK guidelines currently recommend using non-humidified oxygen for adults requiring low-flow oxygen.

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