

## Infection Prevention Team Newsletter January 2024

**Happy New Year!**

### **Screening programmes (Section 7a).**

Residents are entitled to access appropriate cancer and non-cancer screening programmes for their age and sex. Please support your residents to access their appointments when appropriate, especially diabetic eye screening, and if they are too unwell to attend routine screening (e.g. at end of life), contact the screening provider to 'suspend' or remove the resident from recalls.

### **Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines (PPV).**

The pneumococcal vaccine helps protect against some types of bacterial infections that can cause serious illnesses like: [Meningitis](#), [Sepsis](#), [Pneumonia](#)  
It can also help protect against other illnesses such as sinusitis and ear infections.

**Shingles vaccination eligibility changes:** the programme has changed recently- now eligible from age of 65 as of September '23. Two doses, given 6-12 months apart. The phased rollout means that people turning 65 are eligible, while those already 65 will become eligible when they are 70. NHS shingles vaccine will be offered to almost one million more people.

Shingrix and pneumococcal vaccine can be administered at the same visit if the person is eligible for both.

**Hydration and catheter care animations. Click links below:**

[Why staying hydrated is important in avoiding infections and preventing antibiotic resistance](#)

[Catheter care animation](#)

### **Oral Hygiene**

More than half of older adults who live in care homes have tooth decay, compared to 40% of people over 75 who do not live in care homes. (Nice) Maintaining good oral hygiene and surveillance is essential. Regular check-ups and treatments should be encouraged and supported. Poor oral hygiene can lead to pain, discomfort, and a higher risk of infections. It can also lead to poor nutrition and fluid intake increasing the risk of dehydration, weight loss and infections such as UTIs, pneumonia and gum disease.

Oral care is important, by supporting / performing mouth care you are reducing the harmful bacteria in the mouth. Some conditions such as arthritis can make it harder to hold a toothbrush and some medications can reduce the amount of saliva produced in the mouth. For further information and resources click here: [Oral health assessment](#)

It is important all mouth care is well documented.

### **Post Christmas**

As you take down Christmas Decorations, be mindful of how old decorations are and how you are storing them for the following year. Decorations must be cleaned before and after storage. If the decoration cannot be effectively cleaned (e.g. satin/ glitter baubles) it should be disposed of.

**Please do continue to report incidents and outbreaks to the IPC team where we can offer outbreak support. Report via email to [ipc@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:ipc@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)**