

Policy Overview

TruComfort Homecare understands the importance of strict infection control procedures to protect staff, service users and the extended community. TruComfort Homecare acknowledges this, with many staff members having close contact with clients involving in bodily fluid interchange such as blood, urine, vomit, feces, and sputum. It is necessary to have procedures in place to prevent infectious diseases from spreading everywhere. Our goal is to setup a standardize hygiene procedures to reduce the possibility of infections & maintain a secure environment for all parties concerned.

Objectives

We aim to ensure:

- The Clients, families and all staff members are properly protected from avoidable infections.
- All team members understand and follow essential infection control practices.
- Compliance with all relevant UK health, safety and infection control legislation.

Relevant Legislation

TruComfort complies with the following laws and guidelines:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988
- RIDDOR 1995 (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences)
- COSHH 2002 (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health)
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Food Safety Act 1990

This includes adherence to any updates or revisions of the above.

Infection Control Procedures

All TruComfort Homecare staff are required to:

1. **Always practice excellent hygiene** throughout, but especially during work to avoid spreading the infection.
2. **Wash hands properly and regularly** especially after contact with bodily fluids before preparing food, after using the toilet and when moving between service users. Where water is unavailable, alcohol-based hand sanitiser may be used temporarily.
3. **Follow food safety protocols** when handling or preparing food in client homes. Staff unwell with food-borne illnesses must inform their manager and not return to work until cleared by a GP.

4. **Wear protective clothing**, such as disposable gloves, aprons and fluid-resistant masks, when delivering personal care or where infection risks are high.
5. **Treat all bodily fluid spills as potentially infectious**, wearing protective gear and cleaning with agency-approved products. Follow disease-specific cleaning guidance if applicable.
6. **Dispose of clinical waste properly**, using yellow sealed bags for contaminated items. These must be labelled clearly and stored securely for collection. Staff must request more supplies if needed.
7. **Avoid sharing personal-use items** like razors, toothbrushes, or towels with service users.
8. **Handle specimens carefully**, label containers clearly, wear gloves and wash hands after handling.

Risk Assessment During Client Onboarding

During the initial care assessment, potential infection risks are evaluated and noted in the care plan. Preventative steps are also recorded where appropriate.

Reporting Obligations

Under RIDDOR, TruComfort must report confirmed cases of notifiable diseases to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE). These include but are not limited to:

COVID-19, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis, Measles, Mumps, Scarlet Fever, Legionnaire's Disease, Food Poisoning and Whooping Cough.

All outbreak reports must be documented and a designated manager will notify the HSE. RIDDOR forms are stored at the main office. If an outbreak is suspected, the local communicable disease team must also be informed promptly.

Training

- **New staff** are required to read and understand this policy during induction.
- **Ongoing staff** will receive regular infection control training aligned with **National Occupational Standards**, with refresher sessions held periodically.