

## LEGIONELLA CONTROL POLICY

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Directorate/Department responsible for Policy:	<b>Infection Control, Diagnostics</b>
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This document replaces:	<b>Legionella Control Policy, Revised Oct 08</b>

**This policy etc. covers:** (Please tick ✓ relevant box below)

Healthcare Standards (CORE)	C04a	Monitor	
Healthcare Standards (DEVELOPMENTAL)		Finance	
Service Development Strategy		Performance Management	
Local Delivery Plan		Business Planning	
Assurance Framework		Complaints	

**Other** (Please specify): Hygiene Code (Health Act 2006),  
NHSLA Risk Management Standards for Acute Trusts, 4.9

Note: This policy has been assessed for any equality, diversity or human rights implications.

### Controlled document

This document has been created following the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust Policies, Procedures, Protocols, Guidelines and Standards Policy. It should not be altered in any way without the express permission of the author or their representative

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## **1. Statutory Obligations**

The Trust recognises its statutory obligations, under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002, to identify and control the risk to patients, staff & visitors from infection with legionella bacteria. It aims to do this by having procedures in place which comply with the Health and Safety Commission's (2000) Approved Code of Practice L8 and the Department of Health's Health Technical Memorandum 04-01 – 'The control of Legionella, hygiene, "safe" hot water, cold water and drinking water systems'.

## **2. Management accountability**

The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for the quality of water supplies within the Trust.

The Trust has established a Legionella Committee (previously known as the Infection Control Team (Legionella)). The membership of this committee comprises persons key to the control of legionella and includes the Infection Control Doctor/Medical Microbiologist, the Responsible Person, Infection Control Lead Nurse.

The Responsible Person is the Head of Estates, who may delegate duties to a suitably qualified deputy or deputies.

The Legionella Committee, with the aid of deputies of the responsible person, appropriate maintenance staff and contractors, has the following roles:

- Advising on the potential areas of risk and identifying where systems do not comply with current guidance on control of legionella.
- Advising on the necessary continuing procedures for the prevention of legionella.
- Monitoring the implementation and efficacy of the procedures.
- Approving and identifying any changes to those procedures.
- Monitoring and ensuring the maintenance of adequate records.

The Legionella Committee reports to the Trust Infection Control Committee which reports to the Trust Governance Committee, a sub committee of the Trust Board.

Appendix 1 shows the organisational structure for responsibilities for legionella control and named individuals

## **3. Operational Plan**

The responsible person must ensure that there is an operational plan covering each site for which the Trust is responsible, which is reviewed and updated at appropriate intervals. The operational plan must contain the following elements:

1. up-to-date as-fitted drawings, schematic diagrams and descriptions of all the supply, storage and distribution systems within those premises.
2. step-by-step instructions to operate, maintain, control and shut down the water supply, storage and distribution systems within those premises.
3. a schedule of possible emergency incidents causing loss of the water supply from the water undertaker. Each item in the emergency incident schedule should include guidance on operational procedures to re-establish a stable wholesome water supply.

#### **4. Risk Assessment**

The Trust carries out a written risk assessment to identify and assess the risk of exposure to legionella bacteria from water systems on the premises and any precautionary measures necessary. Specialist contractors may be engaged for this purpose. Risk assessments are carried out for new building works, new installations or alterations to water supply and distribution, water treatment, air conditioning, water outlets, showers, hydrotherapy pool. Risk assessment should include anything which may contribute to legionella risk including sculptures and decorative installations which involve water.

Biannual audits of legionella risk are undertaken.

Risk assessments, audits and records of legionella control activities are reviewed and monitored by the Infection Control Team (Legionella), which meets twice a year.

#### **5. Preventive Measures**

The Trust takes all reasonable measures to minimise the risk of exposure of staff and patients and visitors to legionella in accordance with existing guidance. The operational plan includes the Estates Department document – “Maintenance Measures to be applied in combating Legionellae infection”. This document is reviewed annually. There is a detailed schedule of preventive maintenance procedures, monitoring of water quality and record keeping.

Flushing of hot and cold water outlets is routinely undertaken by the Trust Hotel Services Department, except in areas which are not in use which are the responsibility of the Estates Department.

#### **6. References**

1. Health and Safety Commission’s (2000) Approved Code of Practice L8
2. Department of Health’s Health Technical Memorandum 04-01 – ‘The control of Legionella, hygiene, “safe” hot water, cold water and drinking water systems’

**ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE CONTROL OF LEGIONELLA**

