

Environmental Hygiene

The hospital is proud of the hygiene standard achieved to date.

Our goal is to contribute to the reduction of healthcare associated infections by ensuring the hospital is clean. We are continuously looking at improvements within our hygiene standards. Your help is needed to keep our hospital clean and help prevent the spread of infection.

- ✓ If you are concerned about cleanliness in the hospital or if you spot any dirt or dust, please inform a member of staff
- ✓ Place your rubbish in the bins provided, green bins are available for recyclable waste
- ✓ Keep the space around you and your bed tidy and uncluttered so that cleaning staff can access all the surfaces easily
- ✓ Do not store any belongings on the floor, use locker and wardrobe provided - some belongings must be sent home if there is not enough space available to store them
- ✓ Always remove your toiletries and clothes from bathrooms after use
- ✓ Do not place any clothes on the radiators
- ✓ Refrain from littering public areas, corridors and the paths outside the hospital

A clean environment provides the right setting for good patient care practice and good infection control.

Your Role in Infection Prevention and Control

Infection Prevention and Control is a fundamental part of the hospital's quality system to ensure the safety and well being of patients, staff and visitors. It will never be possible to prevent all infections, but there are ways you and your relatives can help reduce the risk and keep you safe.

You and your visitors / relatives can help us reduce the spread of infection by:

- ✓ Not touching your wound or your dressing or any of your devices, for example drips or catheters
- ✓ Cleaning your hands before you enter and leave the ward or Department. Encouraging your visitors / relatives to wash their hands or use the alcohol hand gel provided
- ✓ Asking your visitors / relatives to use the public toilets, as patient toilets are for patients use only
- ✓ Asking your visitors / relatives not to sit or lie on your bed
- ✓ Asking your visitors / relatives not to bring food into you
- ✓ Asking your visitors / relatives not to visit if they are feeling unwell as they may be an infection risk to you and others, for example if they have a cold, diarrhea, vomiting or chicken pox etc
- ✓ Watching out for any additional information notices in the hospital.
- ✓ Asking your visitors / relatives not to bring children to the hospital
- ✓ Adhering to hospital visiting times

These are just some of the ways we can help reduce the spread of infection within the hospital.

If you require any further information or advice, please ask to speak to the ward manager, member of the nursing staff or you can ask to speak to a member of the Infection Control Team. There are several Patient Information leaflets available on the hospital website (www.mater.ie).