INTRODUCTION

The steps taken to protect residents, clients, staff and visitors from infection represent an important element in the quality of care provided.

The following research and evidence based guidelines are outlined to promote best practice in the prevention and control of infection. We hope that these guidelines will assist services in formulating their own protocols for infection prevention and control.

These guidelines replace the
- “Guidelines on Infection Control for Community Hospitals, 2008”.
- “Guidelines on Infection Control for Disability Services, 2008”
- “Community Infection Control Guidelines” SHB 2004

The guidelines were developed by the Working Group with input from specialists in various areas who are acknowledged in each section. At draft stage, three consultation workshops were held where intended users were consulted. Guidelines were then finalised and approved through the Cork and Kerry Infection Prevention and Control Committee and the Kerry Infection Prevention and Control Committee.

The guidelines are in folder format divided into sections. As sections of the guidelines are reviewed or additions developed, you will be able to replace the old section with the new one or add additions to the folder.

Working Group
Dr. Anne Sheehan, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, HSE South (Cork & Kerr)  
Patricia Coughlan, Infection Prevention and Control, Cork & Kerry Disability Service  
Máire Flynn, Infection Prevention and Control, Kerry Community Services  
Niamh McDonnell, Infection Prevention and Control, St. Finbarr’s Hospital  
Liz Forde, Infection Prevention and Control, Cork Community Services  

August 2012

We would like to thank all those who either attended the Consultation Workshops or contributed during the development and consultation process.

Any queries and updating of these guidelines will be through your local Infection Prevention and Control Nurse.