

6. Infection Control (Death in Hospital)

- 6.1 In some cases the body of a deceased person may present a risk of infection because of an active communicable disease or carrier status. This may have been confirmed or undiagnosed.
- 6.2 The principles of Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) and Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs) continue to apply whilst a deceased person remains in our care. This is due to the ongoing risk of infectious transmission via contact although the risk is usually lower than for living patients.
- 6.3 Where it is known that the body of a deceased person may constitute an increased risk of infection, staff should follow the guidance contained in Section 2.5 of the [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual](#) which covers infection prevention and control during care of a deceased person.
- 6.4 In all cases, a [Deceased Adult Inpatient Notification Form](#) must be completed by the healthcare professional who has confirmed the death in accordance with NHS Lothian policy. The form must be transferred and remain with the deceased person at all stages until it is ultimately given to the funeral director (or other person) who collects the deceased person.
- 6.5 Further advice is available from local infection control teams. For **urgent** enquiries out of hours, the on-call Consultant Microbiologist may be contacted via the switchboard.