**Infection Prevention and Control Policy Penwith Ear Care**

**1. Introduction**

Penwith Ear Care is committed to providing a safe and hygienic environment for all patients and staff. This Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) policy outlines the procedures and practices to be followed to minimize the risk of infection transmission within the clinic.

**2. Scope**

This policy applies to all staff, patients, and visitors at Penwith Ear Care.

**3. Policy Statement**

Penwith Ear Care is committed to maintaining the highest standards of infection prevention and control. This includes:

\* Implementing effective hand hygiene practices

\* Ensuring thorough cleaning and disinfection of equipment and surfaces

\* Adhering to safe waste management procedures

\* Educating staff and patients about infection prevention and control

**4. Procedures**

4.1 Hand Hygiene

\* All staff must perform hand hygiene before and after patient contact, before and after glove use, and after touching contaminated surfaces.

\* Hand hygiene can be achieved through handwashing with soap and water or the use of alcohol-based hand rub.

\* Handwashing should be performed for at least 20 seconds, ensuring all surfaces of the hands are cleaned.

\* Alcohol-based hand rub should be applied to all surfaces of the hands and rubbed together until dry.

4.2 Cleaning and Disinfection

\* All clinical areas, equipment, and surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected regularly, following manufacturer's instructions.

\* Cleaning should be performed with detergent and water, followed by disinfection with an appropriate disinfectant.

\* Single-use items should be discarded after each use.

\* Reusable equipment should be cleaned and disinfected according to the manufacturer's instructions.

4.3 Waste Management

\* All waste generated at Penwith Ear Care must be disposed of safely and in accordance with local regulations.

\* Clinical waste must be segregated from general waste and disposed of in appropriate clinical waste bins.

\* Sharps waste, such as needles and blades, must be disposed of in designated sharps containers.

\* All waste must be stored and transported safely to prevent the spread of infection.

**5. Staff Training**

\* All staff will receive regular training on infection prevention and control procedures.

\* Training will cover hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, waste management, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

\* Staff will be assessed on their knowledge and skills in infection prevention and control.

**6. Patient Education**

\* Patients will be educated about the importance of hand hygiene and other infection prevention measures.

\* Patients will be informed about any procedures that may increase the risk of infection transmission.

**7. Review and Update**

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure it remains current and effective.

**8. Additional Considerations**

\* Penwith Ear Care will comply with all relevant local and national guidelines on infection prevention and control.

\* The clinic will maintain adequate supplies of cleaning agents, disinfectants, and PPE.

\* Staff will be encouraged to report any incidents of infection or potential infection transmission.

**9. Conclusion**

Penwith Ear Care is committed to providing a safe and hygienic environment for all patients and staff. By following this Infection Prevention and Control policy, the clinic will minimize the risk of infection transmission and promote the health and well-being of all individuals.