

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY AND PROCEDURES **Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (The Trust)**

IPC14

PEST CONTROL

INTRODUCTION

There are a number of animals that can be considered pests within the health care setting and have the potential to cause disease or harm. These can be mammals, such as cats, foxes, mice, rats and squirrels; insects such as ants, Pharaoh ants, cockroaches, beetles, wasps and spiders; parasites such as bedbugs, mites, lice and some birds, including pigeons.

Apart from the possibility of disease transmission, food may be tainted and spoiled, fabric and building structure damaged. Furthermore, Pharaoh's ants have been responsible for the penetration of sterile packs.

Pest control is a specialist problem, which requires immediate attention. The registered provider should have a contract in place for the routine management of pest control. Alternatively, the local council (pest control officer) may provide guidance.

REPORTING AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff sighting a pest within the facility should report the incident immediately by referring to the local protocol for pest control (which should be located with estates management policies). The information required will include:

- the location including, where possible the room number
- the type of pest if known
- the possible numbers and frequency of sighting
- the name of the person reporting
- if feasible, insects etc. can be captured and kept in a clean container, e.g. specimens' pots. It may be possible to take a picture using a digital camera for identification purposes.

If the infestation is noted in a clinical or food area, then it should not be used until further assessment and an appropriate inspection has been undertaken.

GENERAL CONTROL MEASURES

Pests require somewhere to live, food, warmth and a means of entry.

Food needs to be kept covered and in rigid, impermeable containers and any spilt food must be cleared up as soon as possible.

Ensure that there are no areas of static water, such as puddles, either in the building or in the immediate grounds.

Do NOT feed pigeons, wild cats etc. with leftover food as this encourages pests and results in soilage from droppings.

Treatment with insecticides and rodenticides, by themselves, is rarely enough and it is essential that attention be paid to good general hygiene and structural maintenance.

Buildings should be well maintained, drains covered, damaged surfaces repaired, access holes sealed and leaking pipe work repaired. All of these can provide access to pests.

Close fitting windows and doors, fly screens and bird netting all help to reduce pest access.

All food preparation, storage and serving areas are subject to compliance with national and EU food hygiene legislation. Pest control in all food areas is subject to stringent controls under these regulations.