PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT POLICY

Infection control is the name given to a wide range of policies, procedures and techniques intended to prevent the spread of infectious diseases amongst staff and service users. All of the staff working in Premier Care (Plymouth) Limited are at risk of infection or of spreading infection, especially if their role brings them into contact with blood or bodily fluids like urine, faeces, vomit or sputum.

Such substances may well contain pathogens that can be spread if staff do not take adequate precautions. Disposable gloves and protective clothing such as aprons offer staff some protection from being contaminated with an infection and then passing it on to somebody else.

Policy Statement
Premier Care (Plymouth) Limited believes that adherence to strict guidelines on infection control is of paramount importance in ensuring the safety of both service users and staff. It also believes that good, basic hygiene is the most powerful weapon against infection, particularly with respect to hand washing.

Premier Care (Plymouth) Limited adheres fully to Outcome 8: of the Essential Standards of Quality and Safety and Regulation 12: of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010; which relates to the maintenance of appropriate standards of cleanliness and hygiene.

Aim
The aim of Premier Care (Plymouth) Limited is to prevent the spread of infection amongst staff, service users and the local community.

Goals
The goals of the Premier Care (Plymouth) Limited are to ensure that:
(a) service users, their families and staff are as safe as possible from acquiring infections through work-based activities
(b) all staff at Premier Care (Plymouth) Limited are aware of and put into operation basic principles of infection control.
Infection Control Procedures
At Premier Care (Plymouth) Limited:

(a) all staff should adhere to the organisation's protective clothing policy and use the disposable gloves and disposable aprons which are provided for staff who are at risk of coming into direct contact with body fluids or who are performing personal care tasks
(b) staff should treat every spillage of body fluids or body waste as quickly as possible and as potentially infectious, they should wear protective gloves and aprons

Protective Clothing Procedures
The hands or clothes of staff are likely to be the most common means of transmission of infection unless basic precautions are taken.

This involves careful hand washing between contacts and the correct use of protective clothing such as disposable gloves (sterile and non-sterile) and disposable aprons. It is therefore the policy of Premier Care (Plymouth) Limited that disposable gloves and disposable aprons are provided for all staff who are at risk of coming into direct contact with body fluids.

Gloves should be worn at all times during personal care or cleaning procedures and disposed of immediately after the procedure or contact is finished. Gloves should always be changed between service users. On no account should staff attempt to wash and reuse gloves.

Plastic disposable aprons are also provided for use by support staff. Aprons should be used in procedures where body fluids may be involved or there is risk to clothing from substances such as bleach. They should be changed between contacts with individual service users.

The responsibility for ordering and ensuring that supplies of gloves and aprons are readily available and accessible lies with the Registered Manager. Individual domiciliary support staff are responsible for contacting the main office to order fresh supplies, which they should do before they run out or their stock becomes too low.

Latex allergies
It is known that some people can develop allergic reactions to the latex within disposable gloves.

Any member of staff who suspects that they might be suffering from an allergic reaction to the latex gloves provided should stop using them immediately and inform their line manager or supervisor. They should then consult their GP.
Training
All new staff should be encouraged to read the policies on infection control, and protective clothing as part of their induction process.

Existing staff should be offered training to National Training Organisation standards covering basic information about infection control. In house training sessions should be conducted at least annually and all relevant staff should attend.

The Registered Manager is responsible for organising and co-ordinating training.