

# Healthcare Infection Society

## Guideline on water management for health and care settings – final scope, September 2024

### 1 Scope

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#### 1.1 How to use guidance and develop a risk-based approach to water and wastewater safety

The requirement to move away from guidance and compliance to a risk-based approach. This will also show how to establish water safety groups and water safety plans appropriately. It will also prepare organisations where they have a new-build process to establishment of a project water safety group.

#### 1.2 How should the water safety group ensure water safety?

This part of the scope will provide a framework to guide the water safety group in practicalities such as commissioning, cleaning and maintenance, decontamination of equipment, and training needed to underpin these activities.

#### 1.3 New-build and major refurbishment

How to proceed, what are the risks, water-free care (including alternative terminology in this context and whether to use sterile water for some aspects of care), wetting of water systems, and commissioning of water systems.

#### 1.4 The periphery of the water system

Common water and wastewater risks in the built environment and potential mitigations.

#### 1.5 How to conduct a periphery of the water system risk assessment

This part of the scope will include consideration of the hierarchy of risks to specific groups of people (patients/residents and staff) and the hierarchy of controls for acute inpatient healthcare.

#### 1.6 Surveillance of water- and wastewater-borne infections (clinical and environmental)

How to do, which organisms, and what baselines.

#### 1.7 Overview of water systems and control methodologies

This part of the scope will include consideration of physical and chemical controls (e.g. temperature, flushing, filtration, UV, and disinfection), dead-legs and stagnation points in pipework, waste



disposal, and remote monitoring techniques (e.g. for water temperature). It will also provide guidance on what to do in the event of control system failures.

## **1.8 Water outlets**

Where to place/not to place clinical hand wash stations, mitigating splash risks, how to choose a sink and an outlet, and how to arrange items at a clinical hand wash station.

This part of the scope will also cover showers, toilets, kitchen sinks, assisted baths, drinking water outlets (including drinking water dispensers), cleaning and maintenance, and considerations relevant for mental health facilities.

## **1.9 Point of use filters**

Advantages and disadvantages, including when to use, how to select, how to install correctly, how to clean and maintain, when and how to remove, and requirement for water testing.