## PEST CONTROL POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Trust’s Policy in relation to the management of pest control. The presence of pests can be offensive, present infection hazards, contaminate foodstuffs, damage materials, building components and structures and also be a nuisance. Once established, pests can be difficult and costly to deal with. Appropriate standards of pest control in both clinical and non-clinical areas are an integral part of providing an optimum environment for the delivery of quality patient care to service users and to maintain staff health.

Within the policy, details and reference will be made to good practice and recommendations that should be followed to ensure a safe and pest free environment for service users, staff and other persons who access the Trust’s services.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Trust is exposed to minimum risk relating to pest infestation. The Trust recognises its obligation to take necessary measures to prevent the risk of pest infestation in all food storage, distribution and catering areas and to ensure good standards of pest control in all other areas.

3. SCOPE

The Trust and its contractors should adopt procedures to rid them of existing infestation and thereafter, by pro-active work, maintain this position. Where the Trust staff work in premises provided or managed by a third party the Trust’s departmental managers should work pro-actively with the third party in pest control management.

All pest control work should be carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice of the British Pest Control Association. All pesticides used shall conform to BS1831 and shall be used in accordance with the Control of Pesticides Regulations, COSHH Regulations and HSE guidance note no. 5096.

Some of the activities associated with the management of pests overlap with other policies and procedures. Specific regulations and guidance cover the hazards of these activities and the precautions to be taken in relation to these activities. It is not the intention of this policy to provide details of the overlapping regulations and guidance or the related hazards.

Information on common pests and their control is provided within the appendices.

3.1 Policy Statement

The Trust attaches the greatest importance to the health, safety and welfare of its service users, staff and other persons to whom the Trust owes a duty of care and attaches a high priority to providing a safe pest free environment.
The Trust will do all that is reasonably practicable to comply with Statutory Regulations and guidance relating to pest control. The Trust will ensure that appropriate pest control measures are implemented where it has responsibility for premises.

It is the intention of the Trust to ensure effective implementation of the aforementioned statements and to keep them under consideration in all aspects of resource management and decision making.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES, ACCOUNTABILITIES AND DUTIES

4.1 The Chief Executive

The Chief Executive has the overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with all statutory regulations. The accountability for ensuring that pests are reported and that appropriate measures are taken to discourage infestation is devolved to all staff. The Trust has many differing arrangements in relation to the properties that are occupied by its service users and staff. The accountability for the management of pests is devolved to the organisation with the overall control of the building.

4.2 Head of Estates and Facilities

For buildings that are maintained by the Trust the accountability for pest control is given to the Head of Estates and Facilities who devolves this responsibility to the Estates Operations Manager and to other officers of the estates department.

4.3 Estates Operations Manager

The Estates Operations Manager has the responsibility for ensuring that buildings under the control of the estates function have routine checks by a pest control specialist and that reports of pests are followed up in an appropriate manner.

4.4 All staff

All staff have a duty to ensure that pests are reported and that the advice in appendices 1 and 2 of this policy is followed.
5. PROCEDURE / IMPLEMENTATION

It is recognised that there is a need to balance the needs of complying with available guidance and the resources available to the Trust. The Trust therefore operates a risk based strategy for pest control.

The Trust has many differing arrangements in relation to the properties that are occupied by its service users and staff. The accountability for pest control management is the organisation with the overall control of the building.

5.1 Prevention of pests

Basic pest control measures and the reporting of pests are set out in appendix 1 of this policy.

6. TRAINING IMPLICATIONS

The Estates Operations Manager is responsible for auditing and the subsequent implementation of any training needs that are relevant to this policy. The pest control service is currently contracted to the Local Authorities and specialist contractors, and their advice is sought on all matters of pest control, resulting in no identified training needs for staff.

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This Policy and its supporting procedures will be reviewed every three years or when working practices or statutory regulations change. The implementation of this policy will be continuously monitored by the Estates Operations Manager to ensure compliance.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING -

The completed Equality Impact Assessment for this Policy has been published on the Equality and Diversity webpage of the RDaSH website click here

8.1 Privacy, Dignity and Respect

<table>
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<th>The NHS Constitution states that all patients should feel that their privacy and dignity are respected while they are in hospital. High Quality Care for All (2008), Lord Darzi’s review of the NHS, identifies the need to organise care around the individual, ‘not just clinically but in terms of dignity and respect’.</th>
<th>Indicate how this will be met</th>
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<td>As a consequence the Trust is required to articulate its intent to deliver care with privacy and dignity that treats all service users with respect. Therefore, all procedural documents will be considered, if relevant, to reflect the requirement to treat everyone with privacy, dignity and respect,</td>
<td>There are no effects on the provision of privacy and dignity or respect within this policy.</td>
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8.2 Mental Capacity Act

Central to any aspect of care delivered to adults and young people aged 16 years or over will be the consideration of the individuals capacity to participate in the decision making process. Consequently, no intervention should be carried out without either the individuals informed consent, or the powers included in a legal framework, or by order of the Court. Therefore, the Trust is required to make sure that all staff working with individuals who use our service are familiar with the provisions within the Mental Capacity Act. For this reason all procedural documents will be considered, if relevant to reflect the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to ensure that the interests of an individual whose capacity is in question can continue to make as many decisions for themselves as possible.

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<td>All individuals involved in the implementation of this policy should do so in accordance with the Guiding Principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. (Section 1)</td>
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9. LINKS TO ANY ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

None

10. REFERENCES

Code of Practice of the British Pest Control Association.

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (1986) (as amended 1997)

Appendix 1- Basic Pest Control Measures

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
Pest Control Policy

This document contains guidance for staff on the Trust’s pest control policy.

“Rid” and “Riddance” - The terms rid and riddance are defined as eradication or achieving the best level of control that is technically and practically possible.

Reporting

All sightings of pests or evidence of their existence should be reported in the first instance to the organisation in control of the building. The information required will include:

- The location, i.e. ward, department, clinic, etc
- Precise location, i.e. bathroom, office, etc
- Type of pest if known
- Possible numbers and the frequency of sighting
- The name of the person reporting
- The date and time of the sighting

Basic Pest Control Measures

Food should be covered or stored in pest proof containers.
Spillages should be promptly removed.
Waste should be stored in a manner suitable to prevent access by pests.
Accumulation of static/stagnant water should be avoided.

Buildings should be of sound structure and well maintained, drains should be covered, leaking pipe-work repaired and damaged surfaces made good. Defects should be reported to the Estates Department.

Cracks in plaster and woodwork, unsealed areas around pipe-work, damaged tiles, badly fitted equipment and kitchen units are all likely to provide excellent harbourage and should be maintained in a suitable condition.

Where fitted fly screens should always be closed when windows are open.
Doors to food preparation areas should be kept closed.

Treatment with insecticides and rodenticides alone is seldom sufficient; attention must be paid to good hygiene and structural maintenance.
Appendix 2- Pet Therapy

The importance of pets within the rehabilitation setting is acknowledged. Pet Therapy shall only be implemented with the express permission of the Control of Infection Team. Where permitted it is important that the following guidelines are adhered to at all times:

Pets must be housetrained, well cared for and preferably spayed or neutered.

Pets should be healthy and free from parasites; they should be regularly checked by a vet especially if any form of infection/infestation is suspected.

Pets should not be permitted in any food preparation area.

Pets should not be permitted in clinical areas (treatment rooms, ward areas, etc).

At inpatient areas the dayroom should be used for pet therapy and no other area used.

Bedding, housing, litter trays and feeding bowls should be kept clean and away from patients/clients.

Pet food should be stored safely away from patients’/clients’ food.

Dried pet food should be stored in pest proof containers to reduce the risk of infestation.

Pregnant staff should not handle pet litter or litter trays.
Appendix 3- List and Description of Common Pests

Houseflies

Significance

Houseflies can transmit intestinal worms, or their eggs and are potential vectors of disease such as dysentery, gastro-enteritis, typhoid, cholera and tuberculosis. They will frequent and feed indiscriminately on any liquefiable solid food, putrefying material or food stored for human consumption.

Control

Flies have rapid, prolific breeding habits and high mobility. In order to break the life-cycle, control measures should be directed against larval and adult flies.

Hygiene/management

Satisfactory hygiene is necessary to limit potential breeding sites and food sources. Entry of flies into buildings can be prevented by 1.12mm mesh fly screen, air curtains, bead screens or self closing door equipment with rubber seals.

Cockroaches

Distribution

Cockroaches are common in premises associated with the production or handling of food. Gregarious and nocturnal they spend the day hiding in cracks and crevices around areas such as sinks, drains, cookers, the back of cupboards and in refrigerator motor compartments. They favour buildings with service ducts and complex plumbing installations which allow them to travel freely.

Significance

Cockroaches are potential vectors of diseases such as dysentery, gastroenteritis, typhoid and poliomyelitis. Their diet is omnivorous and includes fermenting substances, soiled dressing, hair, leather, parchment, wallpaper, faeces and food for human consumption. The latter may be contaminated either by the mechanical transfer of causative agents of disease from the insect’s body, or by transmission in the faeces.

Control

Monitoring and control is essential although successful control of cockroaches is a complex subject, and depends very much upon tailoring control measures to the species concerned. Infestations can be difficult to control as cockroach eggs are poorly penetrated by insecticides. Consequently surveillance of the area by the pest control contractor may need to be prolonged.

Hygiene/management
A high standard of hygiene will deny sources of food and hiding places.

**Ants**

**Black Ants:**
Foraging worker ants cause a nuisance as they travel widely in search of food, following well-defined trails and clustering around the food source. Sweet foods are preferred. They are obviously an unpleasant sight and may damage food for human consumption.

**Pharaoh’s Ants:**
These 2mm omnivorous light brown ants are half the size of black ants. They cannot breed without artificial heat, are very persistent and pose a serious cross infection risk in hospitals. The ants may be found in wall cavities, heating pipes, behind sinks and ovens and therefore in laundry, linen rooms, clinical and residential areas. They are particularly attracted to sweet or light protein.

**Hygiene/management**

Although frequently inaccessible and difficult to destroy, ants’ nests must be eradicated. If infestation is to be successfully controlled, hormone treatment is required which sterilises the female ant.

**Wasps**

Wasp stings cause pain and distress. Some individuals are particularly sensitive. Wasp nests are only used for one season, so it may be possible to put up with the problem temporarily. They are often found in cavities in brickwork, in air bricks and roof vents. The nest can be treated by the Trust’s pest control contractor; such work may be best carried out in the evening or weekend as poisoned stupefied wasps can cause problems. Particular attention should be paid to areas around rubbish bins that could be kept in a hygienic condition.

**Other Insect Pests**

There are many other insect pests that occur sporadically in hospitals. The most common of these being flies of various species, crickets, silverfish and stored product insects and mites which can be found infesting dried foods such as flour weevils.

**Mice and Rats**

These are the vertebrates with greatest potential for damage to food stocks and building fabric in hospitals. Modern rodenticides are extremely efficient in the eradication of mice and rats from hospitals.

The Trust will notify the relevant local authority of any infestation of its land or buildings by rats and mice in “substantial numbers” as required by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. Rodents have been known to gnaw through electric
cables and cause fires. All sightings and other evidence of their presence should be reported.

The Trust will take reasonable steps to ensure that its buildings are rodent proofed by, for example, fitting collars where pipes pass through walls and by filling gaps in the building fabric, etc. All food and organic waste shall be kept in rodent proof containers.

Bats

Bats are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations 1994. The penalties for contravention are severe. If bats are discovered in any of the Trust’s buildings or on any of its land they must not under any circumstances be killed, expelled, stopped from gaining access, touched or disturbed. Contractors must be prevented from doing work anywhere near them. English Nature should be contacted for advice.

Birds

The nuisance of birds can be controlled in the first instance by preventative measures, e.g. blocking of nesting holes and the application of devices to discourage perching. Netting and trapping can also be considered with the aim of immediate release away from the area/location of capture. As a last resort birds may be culled by shooting with the approval of the Trust Chief Executive and local police authority. No attempt should be made to poison them. Whichever method is employed it should take into account whether the birds are currently in a nesting season or whether they are protected by law. Advice should be sought from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Squirrels

The most serious damage in urban areas arises where the squirrel enters the roof spaces of premises by climbing the walls or jumping from nearby trees. Once inside, they chew woodwork, ceilings, electrical wiring insulation or tear up loft insulation to form a drey. The best method of control is to proof the building/loft. Prevention is better than cure. If a cure is required the best form of control is trapping with the use of a squirrel trap.

Foxes

Foxes may occasionally spread disease such as toxocara and leptospirosis but the risk is believed to be small. More significantly foxes cause nuisance in a number of ways. During the mating season the noise of barks and blood-curdling screams proliferate and in addition to the feeding habits described above there may be damage to grounds caused when digging for food and the indiscriminate depositing of faeces.