Essex Private Doctors

ANNUAL STATEMENT

Infection Prevention and Control

Annual Statement 2026

REPORTING PERIOD 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026	STATEMENT DATE **7 October 2026**	IPC LEAD **Dr Alice Scott** **Clinical Director & Registered Manager**
PROVIDER Essex Private Doctors Ltd	LOCATION 57 Crown Street Brentwood, Essex CM14 4BD	NEXT ANNUAL REVIEW By 18 September 2027

Essex Private Doctors Ltd (EPD) is committed to preventing and controlling infection and maintaining a clean, safe clinical environment. This statement summarises EPD's IPC activity for the reporting period and is publicly available in line with the Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance.

NO KNOWN infection transmission events recorded	**18 SEP 2026** annual IPC self-assessment completed	**NO OUTSTANDING** audit non-compliance identified

1. Known infection transmission events

A review of EPD's central monitoring records identified **no known infection transmission events at the clinic during the reporting period.** IPC-related alerts and concerns are recorded and reviewed through clinical governance, with procedures updated where required.

2. Audits, monitoring and actions

- The annual IPC self-assessment was completed on 18 September 2026 and found no outstanding Essential Quality Requirement (EQR) or Best Practice (BP) non-compliance.
- Monthly environment and equipment audits continue. A 2025 action to obtain role-specific IPC and healthcare-environment cleaning training evidence from the cleaning contractor was closed and verified during the 2026 audit.

3. Risk assessments and environmental controls

- The Legionella risk assessment dated 8 April 2025, the written scheme of control and monitoring records were reviewed during the 2026 audit. No material premises change was reported that required a new assessment.
- The audit also reviewed cleaning and decontamination, clinical waste and sharps, specimen handling, reusable medical equipment and vaccine cold-chain arrangements. Supporting schedules and records are retained by EPD.

4. Staff education and training

- IPC forms part of staff induction. Staff read the IPC policy and complete role-appropriate training, with completion recorded.
- Annual IPC training checks continue. Staff are expected to apply standard infection control precautions, including hand hygiene, PPE, safe sharps practice and environmental cleaning.
- Role-specific IPC and healthcare-environment cleaning training evidence for the cleaning contractor is held with contractor records.

5. Policies, procedures and guidance

- IPC Policy version 6.0 was issued in January 2026 and reviewed as part of the September 2026 annual audit. The next scheduled policy review is January 2027.
- Version 6 removed outdated COVID-19 content, added standard infection control precautions and pandemic guidance, and updated NICE sepsis guidance links.
- The Isolation of Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Infectious Risk SOP was updated in March 2026 and covers triage, patient placement, PPE, escalation, decontamination and notifications.

6. Antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship

- Dr Eleanor Beddoe is EPD's antimicrobial-stewardship lead.
- An internal antibiotic-prescribing audit was completed in December 2025 and discussed at a clinical meeting. EPD also completed the RCGP TARGET antibiotic self-assessment in July 2026.
- Prescribers use current NICE and UKHSA guidance, the BNF and relevant local guidance. Internal audits review indication, choice, dose, duration, documentation and safety-netting; TARGET patient information is available.

7. Priorities for 2026-27

- Continue monthly environment and equipment audits and close actions promptly.
- Continue annual IPC training checks and induction requirements for new staff, contractors and visiting clinicians.
- Review IPC risk assessments, policies and the annual self-assessment at least annually, and sooner after a significant incident, material change or relevant national guidance.
- Continue antibiotic-prescribing audit and antimicrobial-stewardship review through clinical governance.

Governance and availability

This statement is issued under the responsibility of Essex Private Doctors Ltd's designated IPC Lead and is available to patients, regulators and anyone else who wishes to see it. Supporting audit and monitoring records are retained by the clinic.

Legal basis and reference documents

- Regulation 12, Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014
- Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance (updated 13 December 2022)
- Essex Private Doctors Ltd Infection Prevention and Control Policy, version 6.0 (January 2026).

Document owner: IPC Lead | Publication date: 7 October 2026 | Review: at least annually