

Memo

To LINKS
From NI District LINKS coordinator
Subject Infection Control Update
Date 8 August 2012

Please note that these guidelines should be enforced while out on duty:

All volunteers and employees working in first aid units and field hospitals giving direct clinical care shall apply the bare below the elbow principles. That is:

- When having any patient contact or performing clinical procedures - including preparations such as hand washing - long sleeved garments, for example, cardigans, jumpers and sweatshirts, shall be removed to prevent contamination
- Where long sleeved garments cannot be removed, for example, blouses or shirts, the sleeves shall be rolled up to above elbow height, and shall remain up independently throughout the duration of the procedure. Please note, items of uniform supplied by St John Ambulance Supplies are designed to do this
- Neck ties, other than bow ties, and name badges on lanyards, shall be removed or tucked in when delivering any direct patient care, investigation or assessment
- Wearing hand jewellery and wristwatches is not permitted, apart from a plain wedding band if desired.

Volunteers and employees giving clinical care in the field where there are environmental hazards, such as low temperatures or rain, shall continue to wear the necessary protective clothing, including high visibility jackets, when giving pre-hospital care to patients. They shall:

- Be aware of any possible sources of contamination
- Roll up or pull back sleeves whenever possible, and wear sleeve protectors if necessary
- Always remove long-sleeved coats and watches, and roll up shirt sleeves to wash their hands effectively when able to do so.