

## Merry Christmas to you all from the IPC team!

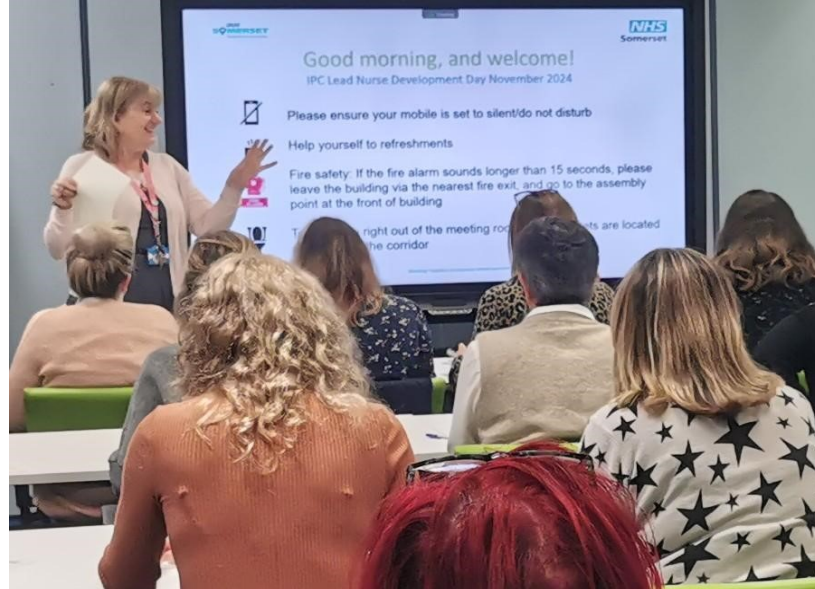
CHRISTMAS is just a couple of weeks away so this will be our final newsletter of 2024. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas.

This year has been a busy one and we are proud of what we have managed to achieve.

About a month ago we held our IPC Lead Nurse Development Day (see pictures).

We had a lot of positive feedback and plans are underway to hold a further session in March 2025. Details will follow.

- The introduction of the Quality Assurance Framework UTI pathway within residential care homes
- Providing support in the form of IPC visits to more than 10 GP practices
- Getting out and about to support over 30 care homes across Somerset
- Embarking on our journey to support Somerset dental practices
- Joining the LEM's bimonthly meetings to share IPC updates with the Local Authority
- Care home IPC champion



- Formalising the pathways to support care home outbreaks such as scabies with
- Revising our webpages and ensuring you can access IPC information and guidance including the Harrogate polices that you can adapt for your practice. There is also a handy audit calendar so you can keep
- track of how often each audit needs to be undertaken
- Commencing a Quality Improvement project with providers in hydration and sustainability, including our Gloves Off! campaign across all care settings and healthcare providers in Somerset. Please remember that we do have the monthly IPC

virtual clinics where no prior booking required.

Several lead nurses were unaware of these sessions and they do enable you to log in to the meeting and ask any IPC-related questions you may have — see the link in Dates for your Diary above this.

Although, you do not have to wait, the team are always here to help!

### Dates for your diary

Our virtual IPC clinic will be held on Wednesday 11 December between 2pm-4pm. You can access the clinic via this [link](#) where you will be able to ask IPC-related questions.

### Measles increase

We are seeing an increase in measles cases across the south west. We would like to remind you of the resources and support available on the Somerset ICB Measles webpage to assist and guide you in preparation for cases that may occur within Somerset. The ICB Infection Prevention Management (IPM) team are also available via their [email address](#). Please see the [Somerset ICB website](#) for [guidance](#) and [IPC measures](#). You will also find [NHSE's action cards](#) and

[vaccination information](#)

## An NHS initiative to keep you healthy and hydrated

IN RECENT years the NHS has seen an increase in men over 70 developing urinary tract infections.

Good hydration is known to reduce such infections and prevent visits to emergency

services.

This project aims to provide hydration advice and resources to men over 70 living in their own homes. Providing information and hydration education and re-

sources, including a water bottle and other goodies to serve as ongoing reminders to keep drinking.

We have until the end of December 2024 to reach a minimum of 2500 partici-

pants across Somerset. If your practice would like to engage in the project, contact Michelle Bell on either: [somicb.somersethydrationproject@nhs.net](mailto:somicb.somersethydrationproject@nhs.net) or on 07880 171088.