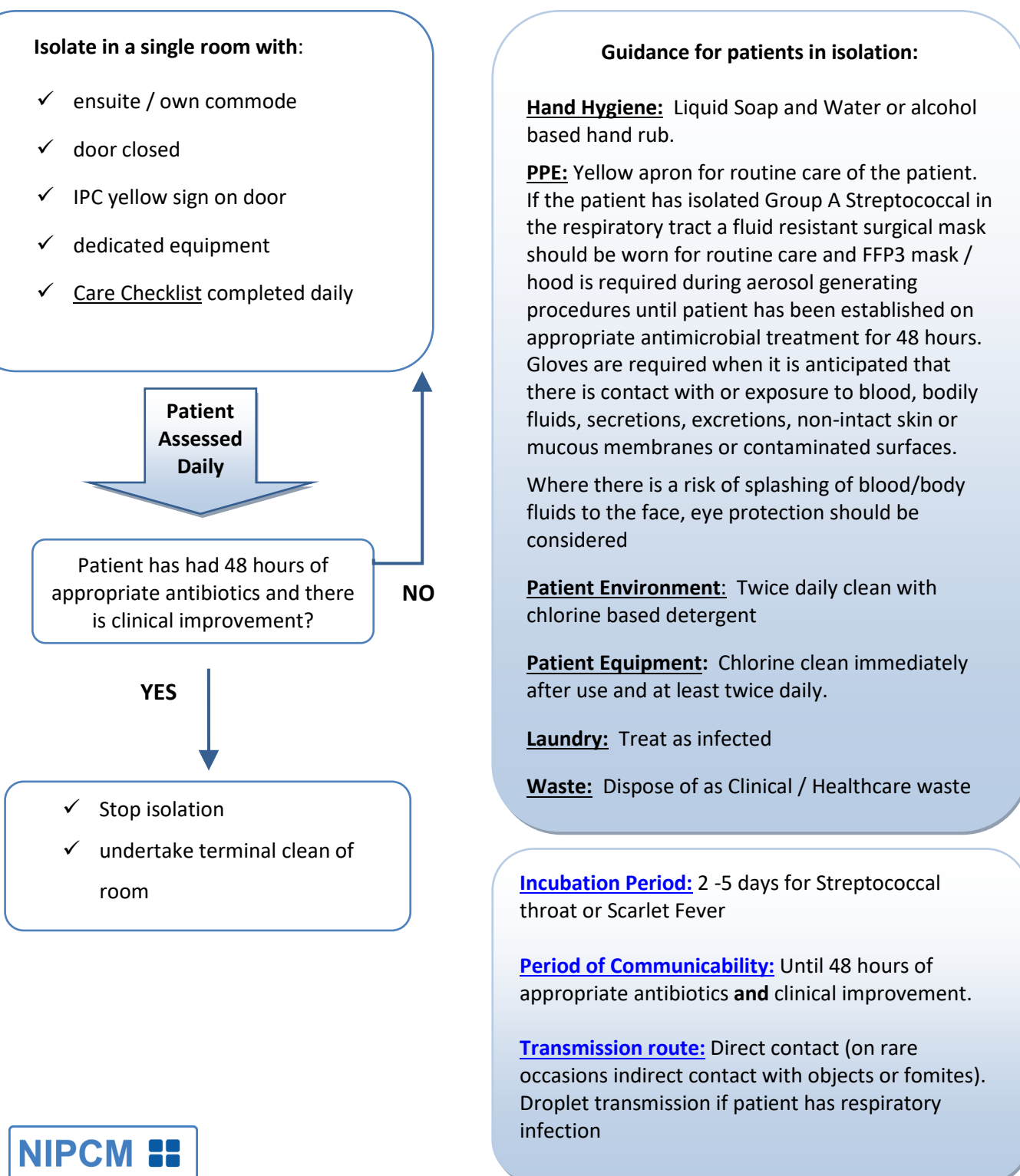

	BOARD INFECTION CONTROL COMMITTEE	Effective From	December 2025
	GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS <i>(Streptococcus pyogenes)</i>	Review Date	December 2027
		Version	1
The most up-to-date version of this document can be viewed at the following web page: www.nhsggc.scot/hospitals-services/services-a-to-z/infection-prevention-and-control			

Group A Streptococcus Aide Memoire



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Additional Information

<i>Clinical Condition(s)</i>	<p>Group A Streptococcus (GAS; <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>) is a bacterium which can colonise the throat, skin and anogenital tract.</p> <p>It causes a wide range of skin, soft tissue and respiratory tract infections, including: tonsillitis, pharyngitis (strep throat), scarlet fever and pneumonia.</p> <p>Secondary complications include rheumatic fever, glomerulonephritis, necrotising fasciitis, shock and impetigo.</p> <p>Invasive GAS (iGAS) is an infection where the bacteria are isolated from a normally sterile body site, such as the blood. It also includes severe GAS infections, where GAS has been isolated from a normally non-sterile site in combination with a severe clinical presentation, such as streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS), necrotising fasciitis, pneumonia, septic arthritis, meningitis, peritonitis, osteomyelitis, myositis, and puerperal sepsis. Any GAS manifestation can be associated with development of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome, although patients with necrotising fasciitis are at highest risk. Vulnerable groups at risk from contracting iGAS infections include perinatal women, neonates, elderly people, persons with diabetes, and those who are immunocompromised. A rare complication of iGAS is empyema, usually in the lungs.</p> <p>Incubation period is 2 – 5 days for Scarlet fever and Streptococcal throat. Impetigo is approximately 10 days from colonization of the skin to development of the characteristic lesions.</p> <p>Period of infectivity is until 48 hours after appropriate antibiotic therapy commenced and there is clinical improvement.</p>
<i>Mode of Spread</i>	Organism is spread by respiratory droplets from patients with respiratory symptoms and also by direct and indirect contact.
<i>Specimens required</i>	Send specimens as clinically indicated.