

Quality Improvement
As part of the every
day

Title: New Community Nursing's Bags
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Reason
Why?

The QI project was launched to address persistent issues with traditional community nursing bags, specifically infection prevention, manual handling challenges, and inefficiencies. The new, compartmentalised, IPC-regulated bags are designed to reduce waste, enhance staff and patient safety, and promote best practice in community nursing.



AIM

By 30/04/2026, implement IPC-regulated, compartmentalised community nursing bags across all community nursing teams. The objectives are: Reduce stock wastage and overall community nursing stock/equipment coverall expenditure by 25%; Maintain zero infection incidents attributable to stock/ community nursing bag equipment; Enhance staff satisfaction regarding manual handling and organisation by 30%, as evidenced through regular audits and staff surveys.

PLAN

- Conduct a staff survey to assess community nurses' experiences with traditional nursing bags, focusing on aspects such as organisation, delays in timing, stock waste, handling procedures, and overall staff satisfaction.
- Community nurses will review the bags currently utilised by rapid response teams and virtual wards and provide their feedback.
- Procure new nursing bags and coordinate their implementation.
- Examine any existing IPC incidents related to community nursing equipment and clinical stock distribution.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of expenditures associated with dressings and equipment used daily in community nursing bags, including cost and waste.



DO

- Staff report mixed experiences with the current nursing bag:
 - Equipment is often hard to find
 - Stock management is inconsistent
 - Many feel the bags don't fully meet clinical or professional needs
- Community nurses assessed the nursing bags used by Rapid Response teams and Virtual Wards, providing positive feedback on their design, functionality, and compliance with professional and IPC standards.
- New bags were procured and implemented in April 2025.
- Incident review identified no internal issues related to community nursing or IPC.
- A comprehensive evaluation of dressings and equipment was undertaken, with staff recording substantial waste from expired dressings and outdated nursing bags.



STUDY

Community Nursing Bag Clinical Stock Cost Savings (2024–2025)

Year	Total Spend (£)
2024	1,117,989.49
2025	919,057.38
Total Savings (2024–2025)	198,932.11

The charts above illustrate a reduction in spending on community nursing bag clinical stock between 2024 and 2025, resulting in a total savings of £198,932.11 .

There were no recorded IPC Incidents relating to community nursing bags or equipment during this period.

Positive Feedback

- IPC-wipeable and IPC compliant
- Professional look
- Kneeling bag is a big hit with all staff
- Improved organisation — saves time and supports better stock management
- Overall time saving, giving time back for patient care

Room for Improvement

- End of Life Care rucksack style would be more flexible; current design is stiff and difficult to carry as intended
- Boot bag is essential — teams had to order a separate PPE box for cars
- Documentation compartment should mirror the End-of-Life Care bag
- Stock varies per patient and is unpredictable; staff often need to bring two weeks' supply

Recommendation

- Yes, with minor adaptations — overall positive feedback, particularly regarding the boot bag

ACT

Summary

The introduction of IPC-compliant, compartmentalised community nursing bags has proven effective, delivering a **17.1% reduction in stock spend**, eliminating **IPC-related incidents**, and improving staff satisfaction with organisation, handling, and professionalism. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and minor design adjustments can be easily incorporated. **The project should be adopted** because it improves safety, reduces waste, enhances efficiency, and provides clear cost savings with strong staff endorsement. Expansion of the project will include the provision of the bags for the TVN and Respiratory nursing services.

Further analysis will be undertaken in the near future to assess reductions in stock waste, which will be combined to understand the broader impact of these improvements.

