

Core brief

Friday, 16 March 2018

Introduction

This issue provides a media statement on the water system at RHC.

NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE STATEMENT ON WATER SYSTEM

NHSGGC are investigating the presence of bacteria in the water supply to wards in the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow.

These bacteria pose very low risk to anyone with a healthy immune system but can pose harm to patients whose immunity is compromised.

Three children are currently receiving treatment for infections that may be linked to these bacteria found in the water supply. Tests are ongoing to confirm if they are indeed linked.

Dr Teresa Inkster, infection control doctor, said: "It's not unusual for children in this type of ward to suffer infections but we are carrying out tests to determine whether these bacteria are linked to any of the three patients.

"However, we can confirm none of the three patients are giving any cause for concern as a consequence of their infection."

The source of the bacteria is as yet unknown but we are taking advice from Health Protection Scotland, Health Facilities Scotland and Scottish Water.

In the meantime alternatives to tap-water supplies to paediatric patients in wards 2A, 2B, 3C and the hospital's intensive care unit have put in place. Given the low immune system of patients in these wards we have also given them oral antibiotics.

Sterilised water is being supplied for drinking and bottled water for brushing teeth.

In addition, portable sinks stocked with bottled water have been supplied to all patient rooms in the affected wards.

Staff and others in these wards are able to use the tap water safely although we have taken an extra precaution of fitting taps and showers with filters to ensure no cross transmission from staff and visitors to patients.