



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

JANUARY 2009



For IC Issues contact your onsite ICC / HICMR ICC (pager 016 301 701)

Stop Press: National Hand Hygiene Initiative ✓✓✓

- ❑ ACSQHC is launching Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) - 5 moments for hand hygiene (HH) next month - refer HHA website: www.hha.org.au.
 - ❑ CEOs should recently have received a letter from the APHA advising them of the Project.
 - ❑ HICMR ICCs are assisting with staff awareness using a PP presentation and Toolkits – see your HICMR ICC.
 - ❑ An Internal Audit Tool has been developed for HICMR clients contracted for Management Services, to assess preparedness for the HHA Project.
 - ❑ Appropriate Precautions Toolkit updated to include HH Posters.
- Refer HICMR October 2008 IC Info Sheet for further details.**

HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program (HARP)

- HICMR are in the process of launching a new feature on the HICMR Client Portal – HARP. (Unfortunately a major computer problem just prior to Christmas has delayed this feature, but we hope to have it rectified soon).
- HARP will facilitate access by the DON and 1 other designated representative to their facility's relevant HICMR RA Reports, Action Plans, Graphs, B&BFEI Reports, etc at any time. (Please note additional products will be available in HARP soon for those facilities contracted to receive HICMR Management Services). To view the site > www.hicmr.com.au > Client Portal > HARP Front Page.
- **Policy Manuals:** will continue to be accessed via the Client Portal using the facility wide login.
- **Newsletters:** are now available via the Client Portal on the HARP Front Page – no login is required.

Topic Of The Month: Australian Food Standards

Food preparation and handling in healthcare establishments should comply with the relevant State regulations. In addition, Food Standards Australia New Zealand have developed National Food Safety Standards based on HACCP (*Hazards At Critical Control Points*). These Standards include:

- Notify the relevant authority of the food premises and its nature of business.
- Develop and comply with the Food Safety Program.
- Provide for food recalls.
- Ensure that all staff and supervisors have the necessary food safety skills and knowledge.
- Ensure all food premises and equipment meets the specified design and construction requirements.
- Provide Food Safety Programs for food service to vulnerable persons, where relevant.

For further information refer <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/thecode/foodsafetystandardsaustraliaonl>

Clinical Update: Aseptic Technique

- ✓ Asepsis is defined as the absence of potentially disease producing microorganisms.
- ✓ Aseptic technique refers to the practices used by healthcare workers (HCWs) to reduce the number of potentially disease producing microorganisms at a clean/sterile site; prevent transmission and/or render medical equipment/areas free from potentially disease producing microorganisms.
- ✓ Techniques to maintain asepsis may be categorised into clean or sterile techniques.
- ✓ Clean Technique: refers to routine work practices that reduce the number of potentially disease producing microorganisms, including practices such as personal hygiene, HH, use of barriers, (eg. gloves/gowns), reprocessing of medical devices between use - Standard Precautions.
- ✓ Sterile Technique: refers to practices designed to render and maintain environment/equipment free from all microorganisms, eg. sterile operating field/sterilisation of medical devices.

Refer HICMR Policy: Standard Precautions.

Staff Health: Hepatitis A Vaccination

- ❖ Hepatitis A is an acute infection of the liver caused by a hepatovirus, the hepatitis A virus. The virus survives in the environment, eg. on hands and in food kept at room temperature. It is transmitted by the oral-faecal route.
- ❖ Hepatitis A vaccination is recommended for those whose occupation may put them at risk of acquiring hepatitis A. This includes HCWs who regularly provide care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and plumbers or sewage workers.
- ❖ The inactivated hepatitis A vaccines are administered by an IM injection and come as monovalent or combined vaccines ie. hep A/hep B; hep A/typhoid.
- ❖ Combined hepatitis A/hepatitis B vaccines are recommended for medical, dental and nursing undergraduates.

For further info refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook; 9th edition.

Endo & SS Workshops Jan-June 2009

Endoscopy Workshops:

<u>Melbourne:</u>	26.2.09
	18.06.09 (1/2 Day BCP)
<u>Adelaide:</u>	19.03.09
<u>Brisbane:</u>	26.03.09
<u>Albury:</u>	17.04.09
<u>Sydney:</u>	23.04.09
<u>Perth:</u>	13.05.09 (1/2 Day BCP)
	14.05.09
<u>Launceston:</u>	28.05.09

Endo Preceptors:

<u>Adelaide:</u>	18.03.09
<u>Perth:</u>	13.05.09
<u>Melbourne:</u>	18.06.09

Sterilising Services Workshops:

<u>Melbourne:</u>	05.03.09
<u>Brisbane:</u>	25.03.09
<u>Albury:</u>	16.04.09
<u>Sydney:</u>	24.04.09
<u>Launceston:</u>	27.05.09
<u>Adelaide:</u>	11.06.09

For further details register online www.hicmr.com.au Workshops>Type>State OR (03) 9520 3040/workshops@hicmr.com.au.