



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2010

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



Standards Update:

Stop Press!

The revised Australian Infection Control Guidelines are available for public consultation for a period of 60 days – feedback by 10.03.10. Refer website: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/consult/aicg.htm>

Topic of the Month: Recommended Vaccinations for Those at Risk of Occupationally Acquired Vaccine – Preventable Diseases

- Due to the increasing numbers in most States of community and healthcare workers (HCWs) acquiring Varicella and Pertussis, all healthcare facilities should take reasonable steps to encourage non-immune workers to be vaccinated.
- A reminder to all HCWs and healthcare facilities of the current Australian Immunisation Guidelines, 9th Ed: All HCWs, including workers and students directly involved in patient care, or the handling of human tissues should be vaccinated against:
 - ✓ Hepatitis B
 - ✓ Influenza (annual) - 2010 Vaccination includes 2 new strains as well as Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
 - ✓ Pertussis (dtpa, provided dTpa has not been given previously)
 - ✓ MMR (if non-immune, born during or after 1966 or have only received 1 dose of MMR)
 - ✓ Varicella (if seronegative).

For further information refer **Infection Control Policy: Staff Health, and related Toolkit and current Australian Immunisation Guidelines:** www.nhmrc.gov.au

Endoscopy & Sterilising Services Infection Control Workshops - 2010

HICMR Endo and SS workshops are open to both HICMR clients and any other interested HCWs. For further details and/or to register a place refer HICMR website: www.hicmr.com.au

Endoscopy Workshops

Melbourne:	18 Feb
Newcastle:	25 Feb
Adelaide:	04 Mar
Launceston:	24 Mar
Sydney:	21 Apr
Canberra:	06 May (TBC)
Melbourne:	12 May
Gold Coast:	27 May
Melbourne:	24 Jun (BCP)
Brisbane:	18 Aug
Perth:	30 Aug (BCP)
Perth:	31 Aug
Albury:	15 Sept
Melbourne:	24 Nov
Sydney:	02 Dec
Melbourne:	08 Dec (BCP)

Sterilising Services Workshops

Newcastle:	26 Feb
Adelaide:	03 Mar
Melbourne:	16 Mar
Launceston:	25 Mar
Sydney:	22 Apr
Gold Coast:	26 May
Melbourne:	09 Jun
Brisbane:	19 Aug
Perth:	01 Sept
Albury:	16 Sept
Sydney:	05 Oct
Melbourne:	27 Oct

Endo Preceptors Workshops (For HICMR Manual Clients Only)

Launceston:	23 Mar
Sydney:	20 Apr
Melbourne:	24 Jun
Brisbane:	17 Aug
Perth:	30 Aug
Albury:	14 Sept
Sydney:	01 Dec
Melbourne:	08 Dec

Pandemic (H1N1) 09 Update

- As of the 01.01.10 Australia has had 37,553 cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, of which 191 have died, including 3 pregnant women and 25 Indigenous people. National Influenza activity remains low and steady.
- Internationally, the most active areas of Pandemic Influenza transmission in the Northern Hemisphere are in Central and Eastern Europe, while overall disease activity has peaked in Western Europe, North America, and Asia. In the Southern Hemisphere, sporadic cases of Pandemic Influenza continue to be reported without evidence of sustained community transmission. Over 12,220 deaths associated with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 have occurred worldwide.
- For latest updates refer to: <http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/ozflucurrent.htm>.
- A more-detailed report is published in Communicable Diseases Intelligence: www.health.gov.au/cdi
- Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Vaccine continues to be available, and as above will also be included in the 2010 annual Flu Vaccine - refer your Immunisation provider/GP.
- The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved the registration of *Panvax H1N1 Vaccine Junior*, enabling children from 6 months to 9 years of age to be protected. Children under 10 years of age will require two doses of the vaccine administered at least 28 days apart.

Client Portal/HARP

Update

- The following products are now available on the Client Portal:
- ❖ **Policy Manuals/RA Tools –**
 - **Infection Control: Surgical-Acute Medical (S-AM) - Index V14; NonSurgical (NS) – Index V4; Aged Care (AC) – Index V5.**
 - Section 1, Policies 1.1-1.4.
 - Acute Resp. Infections Policy and Toolkit Screening Questionnaire.
 - Staff Health – Policies & Toolkit updated to Immunisation Guidelines, 9th Ed.
 - Waste Management Toolkit available with state posters.
 - NS: new Mother Baby & ECT Services Policies.
 - Nb. Surveillance Toolkit & Cleaning Schedules pending. OT Policies under review.
 - **Day Surgery – Index V2.** The Manual has been revised.
 - **Endo/Probes – Index V10.** Section 1, Policies 1.1-1.2; Storage/Drying Cabinets; Some Tracking Forms; new IA Tools: Tracking Audits! Nb. This Manual is under review.
 - **Sterilising Services – Index V3,** revised Section 2, & RA Tool.
 - ❖ **Education Tools:** All finalised and sent to MS clients, except Waste Mngmnt, & Food Services – pending!
 - ❖ **IA Tools:** sent to MS clients to audit practice between HICMR RAs.
 - ❖ **HICMR Feedback Forms:** are available in the Leadership and Management Section of your Manual.
- Refer Client Portal &/or contact your HICMR ICC for further details.**

HHA Update

ACSQHC HHA - 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene

- ❑ HHA website and manual and the online Education Package is available to all – all HCWs are encouraged to participate on employment/annually.
- ❑ 2010 data submission dates are on the HHA website.
- ❑ HICMR ICCs are certified HHA compliance trainers and are assisting with education programs.
- ❑ An Internal Audit Tool is available for HICMR clients'.
- ❑ Feedback on the HHA manual can be made via 'Contact Us' Page: www.hha.org.au.