



# HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

## NOVEMBER 2008

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



### Stop Press: National Hand Hygiene Initiative ✓✓✓

- ❑ ACSQHC is launching Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) - 5 moments for hand hygiene (HH) in February 2009. This is a national approach to HH, including standardised practices, online Learning Package & auditing tools for HH compliance. See the HHA website for User Manual, further information, Posters, FAQs, etc. [www.hha.org.au](http://www.hha.org.au).
- ❑ HICMR has developed an education Program and tools to assist in implementation – see your HICMR ICC for further details.

Refer HICMR Oct. IC Information Sheet.

### HICMR CLIENT PORTAL

- All relevant Policies are in the process of being updated with new CDNA Infection Control Guidelines website: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/icg-guidelines-index.htm>
- Appropriate Precautions Toolkit being updated to include HH resources.
- SS Toolkit and Education Program to be available this month!

### TOPIC OF THE MONTH: MANAGEMENT OF LINEN

- ✓ All laundering of linen should comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 4146: laundry Practice.
  - ✓ The collection, transport and storage of linen should comply with relevant state and national standards.
  - ✓ Used linen should be placed into the appropriate bags at the point of generation.
  - ✓ Soiled linen should be removed from bed/trolleys, etc. in a manner that prevents aerosols of potential pathogens ie. not shaken.
  - ✓ All linen which is excessively wet, eg. blood/body fluids/faeces should be bagged in clear plastic bags prior to placement into an outer impermeable bag. Bags should be closed securely to ensure leakage doesn't occur and discarded when 2/3 full.
  - ✓ Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment should be used when handling soiled linen.
  - ✓ Storage of clean linen should be in a clean, dry area of appropriate size to allow for stock rotation.
- Refer HICMR IC Policy: Linen Management.**

### CLINICAL UPDATE: MULTI-USE TOPICAL SOLUTIONS/GELS

- Transmission of infections has been reported with incorrect use of solutions and gels causing contamination.
- Aseptic technique should be used for the preparation, handling and use of all solutions/gels
- Manufacturer's instructions should be referred to prior to use. Labelling /packaging should be read prior to use of topical solutions/gels, to ensure compliance with handling and storage.
- For solutions that do not contain preservatives, wherever available they should be purchased in single unit dose sachet/bottles.
- For solutions that can be reused; date and time should be noted on the bottle when opened and checked daily for expiry date and discarded as per manufacturers' instructions.

**Refer HICMR Policy: Multi-Use Topical Solutions and Ultrasound Gels.**

### STAFF HEALTH: ROTAVIRUS

- ❖ Rotavirus is the predominant agent of severe dehydrating gastroenteritis in infants and young children in both developed/developing countries. Incubation is 1-3 days, after which illness can begin abruptly with vomiting often preceding the onset of diarrhoea. 1/3 of patients have a temp > 39°C in the first few days of illness. Symptoms usually resolve in 3-7 days.
- ❖ Administration of a course of oral rotavirus vaccine is recommended for all infants in the first ½ of the first year of life.
- ❖ There are two oral Rotavirus vaccines available in Australia - both are live attenuated vaccines. Routine Standard Precautions are recommended if recently vaccinated children are hospitalised.

**For further info refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook: 9<sup>th</sup> edition.**

### ENDO & SS WORKSHOPS

- ✚ Endoscopy Workshops:
  - Albury: 17.4.08 **New!**
  - Brisbane 12.11.08
  - Melbourne: 27.11.08 (Full)  
26.2.09 **New!**
  - Newcastle: 03.12.08
  - Perth: 14.5.09 **New!**
  - Sydney: 20.11.08

- ✚ Endo Preceptors:
  - Brisbane 11.11.08
  - Melbourne: 12.2.09 **New!**
  - Perth: 13.5.09 **New!**

- ✚ Sterilising Services Workshops:
  - Albury: 16.4.09 **New!**
  - Melbourne: 28.11.08 (Full)  
05.03.09 **New!**
  - Perth: 08.9.09 **New!**

For further details or to register online:  
[www.hicmr.com.au](http://www.hicmr.com.au) Workshops > Type of Workshops > State **Contact:** (03) 9520 3040  
OR [workshops@hicmr.com.au](mailto:workshops@hicmr.com.au).

**More 2009 Workshop dates TBC soon.**

### HICMR ASSESSMENT & REPORTING PROGRAM

- **New!** Electronic Monthly B&BFEI Reports are now available!
- **On Trial!** General and SS Education Packages have undergone client testing, and are being modified as per feedback. Endo Program now finalised. Refer relevant Education Policies for implementation.
- **Under Review!** HICMR automated RA Tools are under review in line with updated Policies. Nb. May result in a change of total RA score.
- **Being Developed!** Internal Audit (IA) Tools are in the development phase for HICMR clients to self-audit compliance.
- **Available Soon!** RA Reports/ Graphs/Schedules will soon be available via a secure site on the Client Portal. A link will be sent to the DON to test and approve.



HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program

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