

HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

DECEMBER 2009

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



THE HICMR TEAM WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS 2010!

Please note that the administrative office will be closed between the **24.12.09 – 5.1.10 inclusive**. HICMR ICCs will generally be on Leave from **21.12.09-10.1.10**. For urgent infection control issues please page your HICMR ICC.

Standards Update

On 14.12.09 the NH&MRC announced that the revised national IC Guidelines will be available by 4.1.10 on their website for public consultation for a period of 60 days. Refer website.

Client Portal/HARP Update

The following products have recently been/are in the progress of being loaded 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 Respiratory Infections Policy & Toolkit - Screening Questionnaire.
 - Staff Health – Policies & Toolkit updated to Immunisation Guidelines, 9th Ed.
 - Waste Management Toolkit available – includes state specific posters.
 - NS: new Mother Baby & ECT Services Policies.
 - Nb. Surveillance Toolkit & Cleaning Schedules coming soon. OT Policies under review.
 - **Day Surgery – Index V2.** The whole Manual has been revised.
 - **Endo/Probes – Index V9.** Section 1, Policies 1.1-1.2; Storage/Drying Cabinets; Some Tracking Forms in response to recent Near Misses; 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 circulated to MS clients, except Food Services – pending.
 - ❖ **IA Tools:** circulated to MS clients to audit practice between HICMR RAs.
- Refer Client Portal &/or contact your HICMR ICC for further details.**

Topic of the Month: Hand Care

- ✓ Intact skin is the first line of defence against infection. Damaged skin can not only lead to infection in the healthcare worker (HCW), but can also harbour bacteria and increase the risk of transmission to others.
- ✓ There are two types of skin reactions associated with Hand Hygiene (HH):
 - Irritant Contact dermatitis: which includes symptoms such as dryness, irritation, itching and even cracking and bleeding.
 - Allergic Contact dermatitis: which is rare and represents an allergy to an ingredient in the hand hygiene product, or may also be associated with symptoms of anaphylaxis.
- ✓ The majority of skin problems among HCWs that are related to HH are due to “irritant contact dermatitis”. This is primarily due to frequent and repeated use of HH products, ie. soaps, other detergents, and paper towel use, which result in skin drying. Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) state that the initial use of Alcohol Base Hand Rub (ABHR) among HCWS with dry skin often results in a stinging sensation. Recent studies have suggested that ongoing use of emollients containing ABHR leads to improvement in irritant contact dermatitis in approx 70% of HCWs.
- ✓ **Factors that contribute to dermatitis include:**
 - Fragrances and preservatives.
 - Washing hands regularly with soap and water before and after using ABHR.
 - Donning gloves while hands are still wet from HH.
 - Using hot water for handwashing.
 - Failure to use supplementary moisturisers.
 - Quality of paper towels.
- ✓ **Summary:** Management of hand care problems associated with the use of HH products requires early recognition, a HH product that contains emollients and ongoing HCW education.
- ✓ For further info refer to HICMR Policy: *Standard Precautions*, and HHA Manual: www.hha.org.au

Pandemic (H1N1) 09 Update

- As of the 27.11.09 Australia has had 37,435 cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, of which 191 have died, including 3 pregnant women and 25 Indigenous people. This represents a small proportion of the total cases which have occurred in the community. The number of new confirmed cases/hospitalisations has decreased nationally, and continues to decline.
- Internationally the number of human cases of Pandemic (H1 N1) 2009 continues to increase in many countries as they enter their winter influenza season. Over 622,000 confirmed cases have occurred worldwide.
- For latest updates refer to : [http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/ozflu2009.htm/\\$File/ozflu-no27-2009.pdf](http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/ozflu2009.htm/$File/ozflu-no27-2009.pdf)
- Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Vaccine continues to be offered/available - refer your Immunisation provider/GP.

HHA Update

ACSQHC HHA - 5 moments for Hand Hygiene

- ❑ HHA has updated their website and manual and the online Education Package is available - all HCWs are encouraged to participate.
- ❑ 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 has been developed for use by HICMR clients'.
- ❑ Any feedback on the HHA manual can be made via 'Contact Us' Page on the HHA website: www.hha.org.au.

Endoscopy & SS

Workshops Jan-Sept 2010

All 2010 Workshops have now been uploaded to the HICMR website. To check for further details&/to register: www.hicmr.com.au

Endoscopy Workshop

Melbourne:	18 Feb
Newcastle:	25 Feb
Adelaide:	04 Mar
Launceston:	24 Mar
Sydney:	21 Apr
Melbourne:	12 May
Gold Coast:	27 May
Melbourne:	09 Jun
Melbourne:	24 Jun (BCP)
Brisbane:	18 Aug
Perth:	30 Aug (BCP)
Perth:	31 Aug
Albury:	15 Sept

Endo Preceptors Workshop

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

Sterilising Services Workshop

Newcastle:	26 Feb
Adelaide:	03 Mar
Melbourne:	16 Mar
Launceston:	25 Mar
Sydney:	22 Apr
Gold Coast:	26 May
Brisbane:	19 Aug
Perth:	1 Sept
Albury:	16 Sept