



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

MARCH 2009

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



HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program (HARP)

- **HARP:** Invitations to register for HARP are currently in the process of being sent to the DON at each facility. The DON will nominate 1 other person, eg. ICC, who will also be invited to register. This will allow the DON and their designated representative to access their facility's relevant HICMR RA Reports, Action Plans, Graphs, B&BFEI Reports, etc. at any time. This is a secure site accessed via the Client Portal by the DON/Rep only, using their email address and the new password they allocate. (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.
- **Client Portal:** For security reasons all Client Portal logins to allow facility wide access to the Policy Manuals will have to be reassigned. The DON will receive the new login details with their HARP registration.
- **Newsletters:** are now available on HARP – no login is required.

Standards/Guidelines Update

- AS/NZS 4187, 2003 - currently under review. ? is some time from completion.
- CDNA, 2004: Infection Control Guidelines - currently under review.
- GESA/GENCA Guidelines - currently under review. Draft version to be available on the GENCA website ? this month for public review. www.genca.org.au
- NHMRC Immunisation Handbook, 2008: 9th Edition now available. www.nhmrc.gov.au

TOPIC OF THE MONTH: Measles

- ✓ Measles is caused by infection with measles virus-a morbillivirus of paramyxoviridae family.
- ✓ Measles is an acute, highly infectious disease characterised by fever, rash, conjunctivitis, coryza, cough and Koplik spots on the buccal mucosa.
- ✓ It is more severe in infants and adults than in children.
- ✓ Patients/HCWs are infectious from shortly before the onset of symptoms until four days after the appearance of the rash.
- ✓ Measles virus is transmitted by aerosols or direct contact with nasopharyngeal secretions.
- ✓ Clinical measles or vaccination confers immunisation, probably for life.
- ✓ Precautions: Additional Precautions (airborne and droplet transmission) should be observed.
- ✓ HCWs with measles symptoms should be precluded from contact with susceptible persons until results of appropriate test to confirm measles are known (IgG seropositive and IgM seronegative), or four days after appearance of rash if they develop measles.
- ✓ All HCWs who have not received two doses of measles containing vaccine/do not have adequate measles antibody titres at the time of employment should be offered MMR immunisation.

Refer HICMR Policy: Transmissible Diseases and Additional Precautions.

Staff Health: Vaccination of Women Planning Pregnancy, Pregnant or Breastfeeding women.

- ❖ The need for immunisation should be assessed as part of any pre-conception health check.
- ❖ Women receiving live viral vaccines should be advised against falling pregnant within 28 days.
- ❖ Live attenuated vaccines are contraindicated for pregnant women because of the hypothetical risk of harm to the foetus should transmission occur.
- ❖ Rubella vaccine virus may be secreted in breast milk and transmitted to breastfed infants- where infection has occurred it has been mild.
- ❖ There is no evidence of risk to the breastfeeding baby if the mother is vaccinated with any live or inactivated vaccines described in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

For further info refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook; 9th edition, and HICMR Policy: Transmissible Disease and Staff Health.

Endo & SS Workshops March-June 2009

- ✚ **Endoscopy Workshops:**
 - Adelaide: 19.03.09
 - Albury Region: 17.04.09
 - Brisbane: 26.03.09
 - Launceston: 28.05.09
 - Melbourne: 18.06.09 *New!*
 - Perth: 13.05.09 (BCP)
 - Sydney: 23.04.09
- ✚ **Endo Preceptors:**
 - Adelaide: 18.03.09
 - Perth: 13.05.09
 - Sydney: 24.04.09 *New!*
- ✚ **Sterilising Services Workshops:**
 - Adelaide: 11.06.09
 - Albury Region: 16.04.09
 - Brisbane: 25.03.09
 - Launceston: 27.05.09
 - Melbourne: 05.03.09
 - Sydney: 24.04.09

For further details: www.hicmr.com.au OR contact: workshops@hicmr.com.au.

National Hand Hygiene Initiative (NHHi) Stop Press ✓✓✓

ACSQHC Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) - 5 **moments for hand hygiene (HH)** www.hha.org.au

- ❑ HHA has updated their website and manual, and the online Education Package is now available! Each Facility can register for a username to the online Education Package to track staff who have completed same - contact HHA
- ❑ CEOs have recently been sent a letter from the APHA advising them of Project requirements.
- ❑ 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 to assess preparedness.
- ❑ HICMR ICCs are attending the HHA Train the Trainer Workshop on 12-13.3.09 at JFH.
- ❑ Refer HICMR October 2008 IC Info Sheet for further details.