



PRODUCTS WATCH

The TGA issued a Safety Alert on 18.12.09 related to WelchAllyn Rigid Sigmoidoscopes (Ref No: RC-2009-RN-01023-2). The Alert was apparently sent to all users of this product due to concerns raised in a recent article regarding cross contamination from the reusable parts. The Alert includes new validated reprocessing instructions and recommended routine use of a filter. If you use this product, eg. In OT, Endo, Consulting Rms, you should ensure you have received a copy of the TGA Alert. If not you should contact WelchAllyn ASAP. In addition, consideration should be given to single use alternatives. For further info refer: *Reusable Sigmoidoscopy: A Potential hazard for cross contamination. Lubowski, DZ. & Newstead GL. Surgical Endoscopy, 2006, 20, p. 812-814.*

HICMR Client Portal/HARP

In addition to the many products available on the HICMR Client Portal, the following new products/updates are now available/will soon be available:

- ❖ **Policy Manuals/RA Tools –**
 - **Infection Control: Surgical-Acute Medical (S-AM) - Index V14; NonSurgical (NS) – Index V4; Aged Care (AC) – Index V5.**
 - **Day Surgery – Index V2.** The whole Manual has been recently revised.
 - **Endo/Probes – Index V10.** Many of the Tracking Forms have been updated in response to recent Near Misses/Adverse Events – refer Risk Alert. (This Manual is under review).
 - ❖ **Sterilising Services – Index V3.**
 - ❖ **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. New Tools are about to be circulated to MS clients, including Maintenance, CCU, ED, Maternity, Cons Rms, Dental Services.
 - ❖ **HICMR Feedback Forms:** to provide feedback on existing Policies/Products, and/or request updated/new Policies/Products, are available in the Leadership and Management Section of the Manual.
- Refer Client Portal &/or contact your HICMR ICC for further details.**

STANDARDS UPDATE:

Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (Consultation Draft, January 2010)

The National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC), in partnership with the Australian Commission for Safety & Quality in Healthcare (ACSQH), has released for public comment the *Australian Guidelines For The Prevention And Control Of Infection In Healthcare*. The draft Guidelines have been developed to assist in a coordinated approach to the management of healthcare associated infections (HAIs) in Australia by supporting the Commission's other HAI priority program initiatives. To facilitate this approach, the draft Guidelines are written from a care delivery perspective, focusing on safety and quality, and using a risk management framework. This approach differs from the current CDNA 2004 *Infection control guidelines for the prevention of transmission of infectious diseases in the health care setting*, which are disease and setting specific.

All stakeholders are invited, under paragraph 13(1) (b) of the National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992, to make a submission to the NHMRC about the draft guidelines. The closing date for submissions is 10 March 2010. HICMR is currently reviewing the document and will provide feedback to the NH&MRC prior to the closing date. We encourage you all to do the same!

For a copy of the draft guidelines refer: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/consult/aicg.htm>

HICMR Endo & SS IC

Workshops –April-Dec 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: www.hicmr.com.au.

✦ Endoscopy Workshops

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: 14 Dec (BCP) *New Date*

✦ Sterilising Services Workshops

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)

Sydney: 20 Apr
 Melbourne: 24 Jun
 Brisbane: 17 Aug
 Perth: 30 Aug
 Albury: 14 Sept
 Sydney: 01 Dec
 Melbourne: 14 Dec. *New Date*

RISK ALERT

Cross contamination from Flexible Endoscopes has been listed No. 1 in the *Top 10 Technology Hazards: High Priority Risks & What to Do About Them, Health Devices Journal, Nov 2009, 38(11)*. The Top 10 are considered "to be the Top 10 safety issues in healthcare overall." https://www.ecri.org/Products/Pages/Health_Devices_System.aspx.

We agree, as we continue to hear about Near Misses/Adverse Events related to Flexible Endoscopes and Diagnostic Probes. To minimise the risk, ensure you have implemented the following:

- All relevant staff are aware of/have access to the current version of Policies and Forms.
- All staff responsible for managing the equipment are appropriately educated initially and annually – refer HICMR Endo Toolkit: *Education Program*.
- Staff are diligent about checking expiry dates of all products used, (including chemicals and test strips), both at commencement of the session and prior to each use, and document all parameters accurately as proof of process. Also documentation is maintained and audited on a regular basis. Refer HICMR Endo Toolkit: *Traceability and Documentation*.
- Many of the issues are related to Loaner/New Endoscopes/Probes so ensure rigorous checking procedures are followed prior to use - HICMR Endo Policies: *Loaner New Endoscopes/Probes*.

ACSQHC HHA - 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene

- ❑ HHA manual and the online Education Package is available to everyone! All HCWs are encouraged to complete the Education Package on employment & annually: www.hha.org.au.
- ❑ 2010 data submission dates are on the HHA website.
- ❑ HICMR ICCs are certified HHA compliance trainers. Contact HHA for Auditors' Workshop details.