



PRODUCTS WATCH

Influenza Vaccine 2010

- The 2010 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine is now available. The vaccine contains:
 - A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) "Swine Flu"
 - A/Wisconsin/15/2009 (H3N2)
 - B/Brisbane/60/2008.
- Protection occurs in 2-3 weeks. Duration of protection lasts 6-12 months.
- The vaccine prevents influenza caused by type A and B strains.
- It is recommended to be offered to **All** HCWs, patients/HCWs with high risk factors, women planning a pregnancy and pregnant women who will be in the 2nd or 3rd trimester during the Influenza season.
- Contraindications include anaphylactic hypersensitivity to previous influenza vaccine, or to eggs, or neomycin.
- Immunisation should be postponed in HCWs who have a febrile illness or acute infection.

Refer to HICMR Policy and Toolkit: *Staff Health Management Program*.

GUIDELINES UPDATE:

The AS/NZS 4187 review has been placed on hold pending the funding for same, as Standards Australia are reviewing their business processes. However, as part of 'global harmonisation' they 'endorse the recognition and usage of ISO standards. Refer Australian Standards Bulletin Report for further info:
http://www.standards.org.au/downloads/Bulletin_2_Standards_Australia_100909.pdf

TOPIC OF THE MONTH- Hepatitis C

- Hepatitis C is a virus that causes liver inflammation and liver disease, and is spread through blood-to blood contact. It is a slow-acting virus, and for most people does not result in serious disease or death.
- Approximately 260,000 Australians have been exposed to Hepatitis C virus. There is a treatment for Hepatitis C called Pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin. Viral genotype is the most important predictor of effective response to treatment. There is currently no vaccination available.
- Approximately 83% of Hepatitis C infections have resulted from unsafe injecting drug use. 5% of infections occurred through contaminated blood or blood products transfusions prior to 1990, and the remaining 12% of people with Hepatitis C were infected in other ways, including:
 - Unsterile tattooing or body piercing procedures.
 - Unsterile medical procedures or vaccinations, (particularly in countries with high rates of Hepatitis C).
 - Needle-stick injuries/accidental exposure to infected blood/products.
 - Multidosing with same ampoules/syringes/needles, etc.
- Routine implementation of Standard Precautions will protect HCWs and patients from risk of Hepatitis C transmission. Refer HICMR Policies: *Standard Precautions, and Multi-use Ampoules/Vials, Including Insulin*.

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** (*Nb. The 3 year review of the HICMR Policy Manuals commences in August*):
 - **Infection Control: Surgical-Acute Medical (S-AM) - Index V14; NonSurgical (NS) - Index V4; Aged Care (AC) - Index V5.**
 - **Day Surgery - Index V2.** (*New Manual*).
 - **Endo/Probes - Index V11.** (Under review). The Scopes/Probes Tracking Forms have been updated again to include Loaners & Drying Cabinets. The Assessment Tools have also been updated.
- **Sterilising Services - Index V3.**
- ❖ **Education Tools:** Waste Mngmnt has been circulated to MS clients, Food Services is almost complete.
- ❖ **IA Tools:** New Tools have been 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.

HICMR Endo & SS IC

Workshops: May-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

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) <i>New Date</i>

✚ Sterilising Services Workshops

Gold Coast:	26 May
Melbourne:	09 Jun
Brisbane:	19 Aug
Perth:	01 Sept
Albury:	16 Sept
Sydney:	12 Oct <i>New Date</i>
Melbourne:	27 Oct

✚ Endo Preceptors Workshops (For HICMR Manual Clients Only)

Melbourne:	24 Jun
Brisbane:	17 Aug
Perth:	30 Aug
Albury:	14 Sept
Adelaide:	22 Nov (tbc)
Sydney:	01 Dec
Melbourne:	14 Dec <i>New Date</i>

RISK ALERT

Accidental Sharing of Breast Milk

- We still periodically hear about accidental sharing of Expressed Breast Milk (EBM), and encourage all facilities to follow current standards and guidelines to minimise the incidence of same.
- The importance of breast feeding is well documented and supported by the *NHMRC Infant Feeding Guidelines for Health Care Workers (2003)*. However, breast milk in a healthcare setting has the potential for transmission of infectious pathogens if contaminated and/or given to the wrong infant. While the infection transmission rate is low, the risk is real.
- Factors that may lead to babies receiving incorrect breast milk include separation of mothers and babies, inadequate identification procedures, and inadequate processes to manage safe storage, dispensing and disposal of EBM.
- All maternity and mother /baby services should ensure that strategies to reduce the risk of babies receiving incorrect breast milk are implemented, as per relevant HICMR Policy and Checklist: *EBM Safe Management*.
- For all breastfed babies correct checking procedures should be routinely followed including
 - **Prior** to giving babies to their mothers for breastfeeding.
 - **Prior** to storing EBM, or removing EBM from storage.
 - **Prior** to giving EBM to babies.
- If an EBM Adverse Event/Near Miss occurs HCWs should ensure appropriate reporting and management, refer to HICMR Policy: *Breast Milk- Accidental Sharing*.
- **Update! NSW Health Policy: Maternity - Breast Milk: Safe PD2010 019**

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.