



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

MAY 2009

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



HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program (HARP)

- ✓ **HARP:** Invitations to register have been sent to most facility DONs/DCS, and Corporate Mngrs. They should ensure they have nominated 1 other representative to be registered for HARP, eg. ICC. This will allow access the facility's relevant HICMR RA Reports, Action Plans, Graphs, B&BFEI Reports, etc. at any time. It will also facilitate timely dissemination of appropriate IC information via email, eg. the recent HICMR Pandemic Influenza info and tools.
- ✓ **Client Portal:** For security reasons all Client Portal logins to allow facility wide access to the Policy Manuals have been reassigned. The DON & their rep have been sent the new login details with their HARP registration.
- ✓ **Newsletters:** are available on HARP – no login is required.

Endo & SS Workshops May-September 2009

Endoscopy Workshops:

<u>Launceston:</u>	28.05.09
<u>Melbourne:</u>	18.06.09 Full
	27.08.09 (BCP)
<u>Perth:</u>	14.05.09
<u>Sydney:</u>	12.08.09 (BCP)
<u>Brisbane:</u>	17.09.09

Endo Preceptors:

<u>Perth:</u>	13.05.09
<u>Sydney:</u>	12.08.09
<u>Melbourne:</u>	27.08.09
<u>Brisbane:</u>	16.09.09

Sterilising Services Workshops:

<u>Launceston:</u>	27.05.09
<u>Adelaide:</u>	11.06.09
<u>Perth:</u>	08.09.09
<u>Brisbane:</u>	18.09.09

For further details: www.hicmr.com.au

Standards Update

- AS/NZS 4187, 2003 - under review.
- CDNA, 2004: Infection Control Guidelines - under review.
- GESA/GENCA Guidelines - under review. Draft version to be available soon: www.genca.org.au

Topic of the Month: H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza)

- Australia was notified by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 24 April 2009 of outbreaks in Mexico, Canada, the USA and Europe of a novel Human Swine Influenza strain about which little was known. Since that time the new Swine Flu has spread to many countries around the world. Australia has one confirmed case but there is no public health risk. There is concern that this new strain, now known as H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza), may have pandemic potential. While widespread human to human contact has resulted, the H1N1 virus is less virulent than some previous influenza strains, (eg. H5N1 - Avian Influenza), and has resulted in predominantly only minor illnesses. Refer to WHO/DoHA websites for daily updates: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_05_11/en/index.html
<http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/home-1>
- Reassuringly the Director General of WHO has stated "*The world is better prepared for an influenza pandemic than at any time in history.*" In particular, the experience gained from H5N1 (Avian Influenza) in 2006 has greatly enhanced the world's preparedness including the development of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plans in most countries. In addition, the current H1N1 outbreak has assisted us to further review and refine Pandemic Management Plans, vaccine manufacturing capacity has greatly increased and large stocks of antiviral drugs have been produced and procured. WHO/DoHA are also gaining experience in the use of non-medical interventions, such as social distancing, to delay spread of the H1N1 virus.
- Most HICMR clients have completed and submitted the HICMR Internal Audit Tool: Pandemic Preparedness and Response. We are currently in the process of collating the results and will provide feedback ASAP. Given the urgent nature of this issue we recommend all facilities repeat the audit within 1-2 weeks and the HICMR Business Continuity Planner or similar to assess your facility's readiness. Refer relevant HICMR Policies and Toolkits.
- For further information refer to the *Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza 2008 (AHMPPI)* and associated Tools, and your relevant State Pandemic Plans. Please note most of these Plans were recently updated, and facilities should be aware of the variations between the National and State Plans, and how they will impact on your facility. <http://www.flupandemic.gov.au/>.

WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands Day, May 5th 2009

Many Australian healthcare facilities joined in the WHO Save Lives: Clean Your Hands Day.

- ❖ The aim of this day was to have all members take a pledge to commit to hand hygiene (HH) and to "*take the hand hygiene message to the point of care*".
- ❖ This was a global initiative involving many Healthcare Facilities worldwide.
- ❖ The range of activities on the day included lots of HH moments, and use of "glow germ" to monitor effectiveness. Gold stars and prizes were used to celebrate!
- ❖ An astute staff member commented - "*Everyday should be Clean Your Hands Day!*" And from Sam Kenny (a HICMR ICC's son) – *Make IC History: Wash your Hands!*
- ❖ To join the campaign and register your facility for the *WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean your hands day*, and further initiatives please visit <http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/en/index.html>.

Stop Press: National Hand Hygiene Initiative ✓✓✓

ACSQHC Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) - 5 moments for hand hygiene (HH)

- ❑ 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: www.hha.org.au
- ❑ On 1.4.09 HHA circulated its first Newsletter to all HHA participants with valuable updates of progress to date.
- ❑ The Private sector is also participating in the Project, with some already commencing data submission - HHA next data submission date is 7.8.09.
- ❑ HICMR ICCs are now certified HHA compliance trainers.
- ❑ A HICMR Internal Audit Tool has been developed for HICMR clients.