



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

JUNE 2009

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



HICMR Products & Services

THE HICMR web based Infection Control Management System allows HICMR clients exclusive and expedient access to current versions of HICMR Products, including:

- ❖ **Hicmr Website:** available at www.hicmr.com.au. Provides general access to information about HICMR, and the HICMR Infection Control Workshops, including online registration. In addition, the website provides secure access to the *HICMR Client Portal*, and restricted access to the *HICMR Assessment and Reporting Program (HARP)*.
- ❖ **Client Portal:** a secure site for facility-wide access to HICMR Infection Control Manuals and Toolkits for clients contracted to receive same. A login is required. The Document Control Index for each Manual is updated regularly.
- ❖ **HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program (HARP):** Is a restricted site allowing access by the facility DON/Manager, and 1 other nominated rep only. Access is by contractual arrangement, including Risk Assessment (RA)/Incident Reports, eg. B&BEIS, benchmarking Graphs, Internal Audit/Education Tools.

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

- **Global Status:** As of 10 June 2009, a virus with pandemic potential, the H1N1 virus that recently originated in Mexico, has spread to 74 countries who have officially reported >27,000 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection, including > 140 deaths. Australia has > 1,200 cases, with > 1,000 cases in Victoria. 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. WHO are considering the introduction of severity assessments in any future announcements of pandemic phase changes, eg. clinical/economic/social, and providing both global and local assessments to assist countries to modify and tailor their response actions. The World remains at Pandemic Phase 5, but WHO is monitoring the situation closely: The current WHO recommendations include:
 - "All countries intensify surveillance for unusual outbreaks of influenza-like illness and severe pneumonia.
 - Not to close borders/not to restrict international travel. It is considered prudent for people who are ill to delay international travel and for people developing symptoms following travel to seek medical attention.
- **Australian Status:** The Australian Health Protection Committee held a meeting in Sydney on 10.6.09 to discuss Australia's ongoing response to Swine Influenza. The pandemic response has been raised to allow MODIFIED SUSTAIN activities in Victoria, while keeping the national level at CONTAIN for the other states and territories. Under the modified Sustain Phase, Victoria continues to provide treatment to people who have been confirmed with the H1N1 virus, and preventative treatment to their direct household members. Home quarantine for 3 days is advised for students with a flu-like illness. <http://www.health.gov.au>
- **Advice For Influenza Patients/Staff:** If you are ill, stay home. Control your sneezes and coughs - practice good respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. If you have symptoms suggesting the flu, contact your local GP first. The public are being asked to **only** present to their local hospital if they are seriously ill. Refer to individual State/Area Health directives for specific State requirements.
- **HICMR Acute Respiratory Diseases/Pandemic Influenza Policies/Toolkit:** have been extensively updated to include new information and Tools to assist in ongoing preparedness and management, including Pandemic Influenza Team Policy, Pandemic Influenza Checklist, Antiviral Medication and PPE Estimation Worksheet, Emergency Kit Contents, Reception Staff Action Sheet, and Education Tool: Acute Respiratory Diseases – Seasonal and Pandemic. In addition the Screening Questionnaires/Reception Signs have been revised. These will be available on the Client Portal soon for HICMR clients contracted to receive same.

Endo & SS Workshops June 2009 - Feb 2010

- ✚ **Endoscopy Workshops**
 - Brisbane: 17.09.09
 - Melbourne: 18.06.09
 - 27.08.09 (BCP)
 - 12.11.09
 - Feb 2010 – Date TBC
 - Sydney: 12.08.09 (BCP)
 - 25.11.09
 - 25.02.10 (Newcastle)

- ✚ **Endo Preceptors**
 - Brisbane: 16.09.09
 - Melbourne: 27.08.09
 - Sydney: 12.08.09
- ✚ **Sterilising Services Workshops**
 - Adelaide: 11.06.09
 - Feb 2010 – Date TBC
 - Brisbane: 18.09.09
 - Melbourne: 29.10.09
 - Feb 2010 – Date TBC
 - Perth: 08.09.09
 - Sydney: 01.10.09
 - 26.02.09 (Newcastle)

For further details: www.hicmr.com.au

HARP/Client Portal Update

- ✓ **HARP:** Invitations to register have been sent to most facility DONs/Managers, & 1 other rep.
- ✓ **Client Portal:** For security reasons all Client Portal logins to allow facility wide access to the Policy Manuals have been reassigned. The DON/Manager has been sent the new login details.
- ✓ **Updated Policies include:**
 - Infection Control - Acute Respiratory Infections – Seasonal & Pandemic Polices and Toolkit.
 - Endoscopy – updated Toolkits: Tracking, and Education Program, with Skills Assessments.
 - Sterilising Services - Section 2 revised.
 - For further details refer to the Document Control Library Index for each Manual.

Stop Press: National Hand Hygiene Initiative

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

- HHA has updated their website and manual. The online Education Package and first Newsletter are also available! HHA next data submission dates are 7th Aug, 27th Nov 2009.
- HHA has added further information regarding the Effectiveness of Hand Hygiene Against the 'Flu' Virus, including an article: "Efficacy of soap and water and alcohol-based hand-rub preparations against live H1N1 influenza virus on the hands of human volunteers." www.hha.org.au
- HICMR ICCs can assist with education and support of auditors.

Standards Update

- CDNA, 2004: Infection Control Guidelines - under review.
- GESA/GENCA - under review. Monitor GENCA website to see draft version www.genca.org.au
- AS/NZS 4187, 2003 - under review. Format, and input by relevant bodies not yet finalised.