



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

JULY 2009

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



Client Portal/HARP Update

- ❖ **HICMR Website:** www.hicmr.com.au. Provides general access to information about HICMR, & Infection Control Workshops, including registration.
 - ❖ **Client Portal:** a secure site for facility-wide access to Infection Control Manuals/Toolkits. For security reasons all Client Portal logins have recently been reassigned. **DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEW LOGIN?**
 - ❖ **HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program (HARP):** a restricted site for access by the facility DON/Manager, and 1 other rep only. Includes Risk Assessments (RAs)/Incident Reports, (B&BFEIS), Graphs, Internal Audit/Education Tools.
 - ❖ **Updated Products include:**
 - ✓ Policy Manuals/RA Tools:
 - Infection Control – Staff Health Polices and Toolkit.
 - Endo/Probes – revised Toolkits, Skills Assessments, & RA Tools.
 - Sterilising Services – revised Section 2, & RA Tool.
 - ✓ Education Tools: Acute Respiratory Infections – Clinical and NonClinical.
 - ✓ ICMPs – Vic: currently being prepared for all Management Service clients.
- Contact your HICMR ICC for details.**

Topic of the Month: Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAIs)

- ✚ Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAIs) are a significant risk factor in every healthcare facility. They are varied and complex. Some infections are caused by multi-resistant organisms known as MROs, ie. MRSA/VRE, and can be difficult to detect and treat.
- ✚ All HCWs should assist in routinely maintaining high Infection Control standards. This includes participation in national and local Infection Control Programs to minimise the risk of acquiring an HAI, eg., Aust. Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC), Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA), HICMR Risk Assessment Program.
- ✚ Some patients are at greater risk than others of contracting an infection while in healthcare facility. This is particularly an issue for patients who have serious diseases/conditions that affect their body's ability to fight infection, including pts with burns, diabetes or cancer.
- ✚ Some patients can carry a particular organism - a bacteria or virus - without any adverse health effects. But this changes if the organism enters the site of an operation or wound. Some people who have become sick while at home can carry the infection with them when they are admitted to healthcare facility. Others may have contracted an infection and have no/mild symptoms. Others can pick up an organism if a wound is exposed to dirt at the time of their injury. It is also possible to acquire an infection due to the type of treatment being undertaken in healthcare facilities.
- ✚ An infection can have adverse effects on patients - it can lengthen their hospital stay and delay recovery. In extreme cases, the infection can overwhelm the body's defences and become fatal.
- ✚ It is possible to significantly reduce the risk of HAIs, including:
 - Everyone who enters a healthcare facility should practice effective hand hygiene, including HCWs, patients and their visitors, eg. handwashing/use of ABHRs.
 - Clean equipment been patient use, eg. BP cuffs, commodes, etc.
 - Maintain a clean environment - especially high touch areas and bathrooms.
 - Comply with standard aseptic/sterile techniques for the insertion and care of intravenous (IV) cannulae and other clinical/critical items, eg. ICC, IDC.
 - Identify and appropriately manage patients who are at greater risk of contracting an infection.
 - Routinely practice Standard and Additional precautions, such as isolating patients who have contracted multi-resistant organisms (MROs), and/or use of appropriate PPE.
 - HCW should stay home if any signs of an infectious illness, eg. gastroenteritis, influenza.
 - Prescribe and use antibiotics appropriately to prevent and treat infections.

Endo & SS Workshops July 2009 - Feb 2010

- ✚ **Endoscopy Workshops**
 - Melbourne: 27.08.09 (BCP)
12.11.09
8.12.09 (BCP) *New!*
18.02.10 *New!*
 - Sydney: 12.08.09 (BCP)
25.11.09
25.02.10 (Newcastle)
 - Brisbane: 17.09.09
- ✚ **Endo Preceptors**
 - Sydney: 12.08.09
 - Melbourne: 27.08.09
8.12.09 *New!*
 - Brisbane: 16.09.09
- ✚ **Sterilising Services Workshops**
 - Perth: 08.09.09
 - Brisbane: 18.09.09
 - Sydney: 01.10.09
26.02.10 (Newcastle)
 - Melbourne: 29.10.09

For further details: www.hicmr.com.au

Pandemic Influenza Update

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) raised its global pandemic alert level to Phase 6 on 11.6.09. WHO is now referring to the current pandemic virus as "Pandemic (H1N1) 2009". On 6.7.09 there were 94 512 reported cases worldwide.
 - Australia has also moved to the Protect Phase. As of 14.7.09 total reported cases were 9828. The national breakdown of cases is: ACT 358, NSW 2195, NT 642, Qld 2383, SA 1160, Tas 203, Vic 2328, WA 559. For updated information refer DoHa:
 - *Protect Phase - Annex to the AHMPPI – Pandemic Influenza. (V2, July 2009);*
 - *Resource – Clinical Mngmnt of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009;*
 - *Pandemic H1N1 2009 Guidance for Residential Aged Care.*
 - H1N1 influenza 09 Infection: 'Protect Phase' Guidelines for Australian Public Health Units
- <http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/home-1> and <http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/healthprof#clinica>

Stop Press: National Hand Hygiene Initiative ✓✓✓

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

- HHA has updated their website and manual, including new ABHR availability audits. HHA next data submission dates are 7th Aug, 27th Nov 2009.
- HICMR ICCs can assist with education and support of auditors.

Standards Update

- ✓ CDNA, 2004: Infection Control Guidelines - under review. ✓ AS/NZS 4187, 2003 - under review.
- ✓ GESA/GENCA - under review. Monitor GENCA website to see draft version www.genca.org.au