



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

AUGUST 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 & IC Workshops.
- ❖ **Client Portal:** a secure site for facility-wide access to Infection Control Manuals/Toolkits. 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 RAs Reports, Action Plans, Graphs, etc. **HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?**
- ❖ **Updated Products include:**
 - ✓ Policy Manuals/RA Tools:
 - Infection Control – **Index V13**, Staff Health Polices and Toolkit.
 - Endo/Probes – **Index V8**, revised Toolkits, Skills Assessments, & RA Tools.
 - Sterilising Services – **Index V3**, revised Section 2, & RA Tool.
 - A new Facility Wide IC Program RA Tool will be available soon!
 - ✓ Education Tools: Acute Respiratory Infections – Clinical and NonClinical.
 - ✓ ICMPs – Vic: currently being prepared for all Management Service clients.

Contact the HICMR ICC for further details.

Endo & SS Workshops August 2009 - Feb 2010

Endoscopy Workshops (10 yr Anniversary!!)

- Brisbane: 17.09.09
Melbourne 27.08.09 (BCP)
 12.11.09
 08.12.09 (BCP) **New!**
 18.02.10 **New!**
- Sydney: 12.08.09 (BCP)
 25.11.09
 25.2.10 (Newcastle)

Endo Preceptors

- Adelaide: 9.12.09 **New!**
Brisbane: 16.09.09
Melbourne: 27.08.09
 8.12.09 **New!**
Sydney: 12.08.09

Sterilising Services Workshops

- Brisbane: 18.09.09
Melbourne: 29.10.09
Perth: 08.09.09
Sydney: 07.10.09
 26.02.10 (Newcastle)

For further details: www.hicmr.com.au

IMPORTANT NOTICE! EFFECTIVE 24 AUGUST 2009 HICMR IS MOVING OFFICE TO:



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Topic of the Month: Handling of Sharps

- ✚ Sharps are the major cause of incidents involving potential exposure to blood borne diseases, and **MUST** be handled with care at all times.
- ✚ Healthcare workers (HCWs) involved with medical or dental procedures should be aware of the appropriate policies/procedures at each healthcare facility to minimise the risk of injury.
- ✚ **Handling of Sharps**
 - Sharp instruments should not be passed by hand between HCWs.
 - Specific puncture-resistant sharp trays should be used for transfer of all sharp items.
 - Alternatives should be considered, including needleless intravenous systems, the use of blunt needles for drawing up, the use of safe transport trays, eg. Necon system, or the use of retractable needle and syringe systems.
 - Sharps should be disposed of at point of use where possible, eg. sharp containers attached to trolleys.
 - HCWs who generate the sharp are responsible for the correct disposal of the sharp.
 - For further information refer to HICMR Policy: *Standard Precautions*.

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". As of 31.7.09 168 countries have reported at least one laboratory confirmed case of Pandemic (H1N1) 09. All continents are affected by the pandemic. There were a total of 162,380 reported cases worldwide, and 1,154 deaths. Australia has also moved to the Protect Phase. As of 30.7.09 there were a total 20,688 reported cases.
- The majority of people infected with Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 will have a self-limited illness, and will recover with rest at home and supportive measures alone.
- Some people may suffer a more severe illness, and may rapidly deteriorate. There should be a focus on early recognition and treatment of this group.
- People considered to be vulnerable to more severe outcomes, and who therefore should be specially monitored include those with the following:
 - Chronic respiratory conditions (asthma, COPD).
 - Pregnancy (2nd and 3rd trimesters).
 - Morbid obesity.
 - Indigenous people of any age (especially those with chronic conditions).
 - Other chronic conditions such as cardiac disease, diabetes mellitus, metabolic conditions, renal disease, haemoglobinopathies, immunosuppression, neurological conditions.
- Other groups where active monitoring is recommended include smokers, people with obstructive sleep apnoea, children under 5 years old, pregnancy in the first trimester, and HCWs working in Depts or settings with a high proportion of vulnerable patients.
- For updated information refer HICMR August Information Sheets and DoHa:
<http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/home-1>
<http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/healthprof#clinical>

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 2nd newsletter is now available.
- 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



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