



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2010 (V4)

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



RISK ALERT

OVER FULL SHARPS CONTAINERS

There have been an increasing number of sharps incidents as a result of over full Sharps Containers:

- ✚ All HCWs have a duty of care to protect themselves and others. The generator/user of the sharps is responsible for adequate disposal of sharps, including changing Sharps Containers when they reach the fill line (ie. 3/4 full).
- ✚ Filling of Sharps Containers with inappropriate items can overflow them unnecessarily, (eg. gloves, paper, IV tubing and non-sharp items), and result in injury as they can block the opening/tray of the container.
- ✚ Adverse Events/Near Misses related to Sharps Incidents should always be reported to ensure appropriate follow-up and action, to minimise the risk of further incidents.
- ✚ Refer to HICMR Clinical Waste and Linen Policy and State Guidelines.

Products Update

Alcohol-Based Hand Rubs (ABHR)

Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) and NHMRC Australian Infection Prevention and Control, Guidelines 2010 recommends that ABHR for routine hand hygiene practices should:

- Contain between 60% and 80% v/v ethanol or equivalent; And
- Meet the requirements of EN 1500.

HICMR ENDO & SS IC WORKSHOPS: 2010-2011

HICMR Endo & SS Workshops are open to both HICMR clients & any other interested HCWs. 2011 dates in process of being loaded on the website:

www.hicmr.com.au

Endoscopy Workshops

Sydney:	02 Dec 2010	Full
Melbourne:	14 Dec 2010	(BCP)
Melbourne:	02 Feb 2011	New
Launceston:	01 Mar 2011	New
Adelaide:	06 April 2011	New

Sterilising Services Workshops

Sydney:	10 Feb 2011	New
Melbourne:	23 Feb 2011	New
Launceston:	02 Mar 2011	New
Adelaide:	07 April 2011	New

Endo Preceptors Workshops

(For HICMR Manual Clients Only)

Sydney:	01 Dec 2010	Full
Melbourne:	14 Dec 2010	Full
Launceston:	28 Feb 2011	New
Adelaide:	05 April 2011	New

****CPD Points Now Available****

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

points are available for HICMR Workshops in line with the Continuing Nursing Professional Development Standards requirement, effective 1st July 2010. A CPD Points Record will be provided for participants at the Workshops. Records will also be sent to those who previously attended Workshops from 1.7.10.

AICA Conference Review

Perth 2010 Infection Control Odyssey- Provided a national and international perspective on Infection Prevention and Control with many great speakers who Highlighted the importance of:

- Occupational Health issues, eg. Blood exposure incidents from both a HCW and safety perspective.
- Back to basics - Hand hygiene and cleaning featured in many of the presentations. Interesting that with all the new technologies available – it is still all about **THE CLEANING!!**
- Antibiotic Stewardship and Surveillance

Webber teleclass: If you missed the conference/ wish to share with your colleagues, Professor Paul Tambyah's presentation on *Emerging Infectious Disease in Southeast Asia* and Marilyn Cruickshank's presentation on *A National Approach to HAls - Where No One Has Gone Before?* can be accessed at <http://webbertraining.com/recordingslibraryc4.php>

CLIENT PORTAL/HARP

❖ **Policy Manuals:** The 3 year review is in progress as the NH&MRC IC Guidelines are now available. Policies will be progressively revised by section. Current versions include:

Infection Control: Surgical-Acute Medical (S-AM) - Index V15. Construction/ Renovation Toolkit pending.

- **NonSurgical (NS) – Index V5;** Cleaning Schedules Toolkit available.
- **Aged Care (AC) – Index V6.** Cleaning Schedules Toolkit available.
- **Day Surgery – Index V2.**
- **Endo/Probes – Index V11.** Manual under review as the revised GESA/ GENCA Guidelines are now available.
- **Sterilising Services – Index V3.**
- **DI, NEPT & Office Based Manuals –** currently under review.
- **TOP TIP:** maintain at least 1 current hard copy of the HICMR IC Manual/s nearby, in the event of an IT Outage.

❖ **HICMR License Agreement** - has been updated and is available on the Client Portal.

❖ **Education & Internal Audit (IA) Tools:** Education Tools are now available on HARP for Management Services (MS) clients. They include Reports in Word Documents to allow facilities to utilise as appropriate. IA Tools are currently being updated and loaded on HARP for MS clients, also with Reports in Word Documents.

❖ **RA Tools:** The New Infection Prevention & Control Program RA Tool is now in use by HICMR ICCs in collaboration with the DON/DCS. All HICMR RA Tools are currently under review in line with the Policy Manual revision.

❖ **RA Reports:** A Main Issues Identified List is available to highlight key findings. A separate progressive Summary of same is also available on HARP for RAs conducted from 1.11.10.

❖ **Action Plans:** Include Assessor Comments.

❖ **RA Feedback:** automated process now available if required – see HARP Registrants email message and Feedback Form supplied.

Client Portal/ HARP: www.hicmr.com.au

TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES UPDATES

Multi-Resistant Organisms (MROs)

A two-level approach is recommended for the prevention and control of MROs:

1. Core Strategies

Successful control of MROs in facilities includes:

- a) Strict compliance to hand hygiene
- b) Appropriate use of PPE (Gloves, aprons/ disposable long sleeve gowns). Nb. Choice of apron/gown depends on Risk Assessment and potential exposure.
- c) Implementation of Transmission Based Precautions, including isolation of infected or colonised patients, increased environmental cleaning and patient-dedicated equipment.
- d) Organisational measures : HCW education on prevention and management; antibiotic stewardship, and timely response to surveillance monitoring.

2. Organism-Specific Response

If the incidence/prevalence of MROs does not decrease despite implementation of the Core Strategies above, further measures should be considered, including a risk management approach:

- a) Type of MRO, eg. MRSA, VRE,
- b) Healthcare Unit, eg. ICU, Haematology Unit.
- c) Patient Factors, eg. Immunocompromised pts.
- d) Available resources.
- e) Further measures may then include:
 - Targeted screening, electronic alerts.
 - Decolonisation
 - Surveillance and timely feedback

3. Non-Acute Healthcare Settings

General infection Prevention and Control measures may be enough to stop transmission, eg. Effective hand hygiene by both HCWs and patient, Contact precautions may be necessary if the patient is heavily colonised or there is continuing transmission.

4. For further details refer HICMR MRO Management Information Sheet and Policy.

GUIDELINES UPDATE

✓ **NHMRC Australia Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare** are now available: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/node/30290>

✓ **GESA/GENCA Infection Control in Endoscopy Guidelines** are now available for purchase: <http://www.genca.org/>

✓ **ASA: Disinfection of Intracavity Ultrasound Transducers Update** is now available for Diagnostic Probes. http://www.a-s-a.com.au/file_rep/WEB-UpdateIntracavityDisinfectionWEB-FINAL-100702.pdf

✓ **ACORN Standards for Perioperative Nursing 2010-2011** are now available for purchase: <http://www.acorn.org.au/>

✓ **CDC - HICPAC: DRAFT Guideline for the prevention and control of Norovirus gastroenteritis outbreaks in healthcare settings** is now available: <http://tinyurl.com/25m2urk>

✓ **ACSQHC - Updates** available, including surveillance & hand hygiene: <http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/PriorityProgram-03>

✓ **Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic, Version 14, 2010** is now available: <http://www.tg.org.au/>