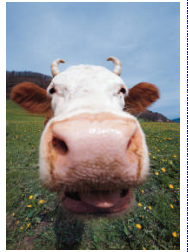




HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

APRIL 2008



To contact your **HICMR Consultant (ICC)** OR to report staff blood and body fluid exposure incidents (B&BFEI), call pager **016 301 701**.

HICMR CLIENT PORTAL

New: Staff Health Toolkit now available on the Client Portal.

- The Aged Care Infection Control Policy Manual is currently being progressively loaded on the Client Portal. This Manual has undergone extensive revision, with many new Policies and toolkits.
- The revised Non-Surgical Manual will be available soon.
- The revised Endoscopy Manual is currently being loaded on the Client Portal, with a new Education Toolkit & HCW Skills Assessments.
- The Sterilising Services Manual review is almost complete, and the Policies will be loaded onto the Client Portal in the next few weeks.
- All Manuals are accompanied by Toolkits which will include Forms/ other tools to assist implementation.
- SDLPs will be available soon.

Make sure you know your facility's login details to access the Manuals at any time – see your ICC/DON.

STAFF HEALTH

Vaccine Storage: National Vaccine Storage Guidelines - Strive for 5:

- It is recommended that vaccines are stored in a purpose-built refrigerator.
- Bar refrigerators are not recommended.
- Management of storing vaccines in a domestic refrigerator has changed.
- Self-audits of refrigerators storing vaccines is recommended. The HICMR Internal Audit Program will be available soon!
- All HCWs involved in vaccine transport/storage should be trained in vaccine management.

Influenza: Don't forget the flu season is upon us. See notice boards for dates/times of influenza vaccination sessions.

For further information and relevant Forms refer IC Manual: Staff Health, and Staff Health

CLINICAL UPDATE

Cleaning Patient Care Equipment:

le. Non-critical items that come in contact with intact skin:

- ✓ Blood Pressure Cuffs, Tourniquets: Clean with neutral detergent solution or detergent wipes if visibly soiled.
- ✓ Tympanic Thermometers, Glucometers, Oximetry Probes: Clean with neutral detergent after each use & disinfect with alcohol.
- ✓ Shower Chairs, Commodes, Bladder Scanner Probes, IV Pumps/Poles: Clean with neutral detergent solution or detergent wipes after each use.

Refer to IC Manual: Clinical Practices – Care & Processing of Medical Devices.

EDUCATION/WORKSHOPS

- ✚ The new 1 day Sterilising Services (SS) Workshop was launched in Sydney this month! The SS Preceptors Workshop will be available soon.
- ✚ Endoscopy Preceptors should attend the Endo Preceptors Workshop for assessment when commencing in the role, and every 2 years thereafter. The new education Program, including Policy, Toolkit and Skills Assessments Tools will be discussed on the day.
- ✚ The half day Endoscopy Workshop is now available in most states for all HCWs responsible for processing Bronchoscopes/Cystoscopes/Diagnostic Probes only. HCWs responsible for GI Endoscopes should attend the 1 day Endoscopy Workshop.
- ✚ Places fill fast, so register online ASAP: www.hicmr.com.au > Workshops > Select Type of Workshop > State > Register online.

HICMR ASSESSMENT & REPORTING PROGRAM

- ✓ HICMR have been working in collaboration with Bignote and their Echidna application over the last 12 mths, to develop automated Risk Assessment (RA) Tools & Reports.
- ✓ RAs are now being conducted on hand-held PDAs!
- ✓ Automated Reports, including B&BFEIs & Infection Surveillance, RA Graphs and Calendars will be available soon via a secure site on the Client Portal.
- ✓ The DON or their nominated rep will have access via a secure login.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH: CLASSICAL CRUETZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE (cCJD)

CDNA Infection Control in the Healthcare Setting Guidelines, 2003: Section 31- Classical Cruetzfeldt-Jakob Disease (cCJD) has been updated. Key issues include:

- ❖ There is currently no test available to detect cCJD infection prior to the onset of symptoms.
- ❖ There is no evidence that cCJD can be transmitted via normal/sexual contact.
- ❖ The decision to implement additional precautions for equipment reprocessing should be based on a Risk Assessment incorporating patient risk factors, and the current known infectivity of the tissue to which the instrument will be exposed.
- ❖ Although transmission of cCJD in the healthcare setting is very rare, HCWs should be aware of the potential for transmission by contaminated instruments or via higher-infectivity tissues.
- ❖ The infective agent of cCJD (prion) is resistant to routine reprocessing methods, therefore additional precautions are essential for the treatment of patients with an identified risk of cCJD.
- ❖ HICMR IC Policies have been updated to reflect these changes – refer Section 3: Transmissible Disease Exposure Management.
- ❖ For further information refer CDNA website:
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/icg-guidelines-index.htm>



HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program

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