



# HICMR Infection Control Newsletter



## JUNE 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 Policy:** HCW Clothing and Accessories available in the Infection Control Manual, Clinical Practice section.
- The revised Endoscopy Manual is now available on the Client Portal!
  - The Sterilising Services Manual is completed and will be progressively loaded onto the Client Portal over the next week.
  - The revised Non-Surgical Manual will be progressively placed on the Client Portal in the next few weeks. This Manual has undergone extensive revision, with many new Policies.
  - All Manuals will be accompanied by Toolkits, which include Forms, Posters and other resources to assist in implementation.
  - SDLPs and online auditing will be available soon – refer SDLP Information Sheet.
  - You should have a document control system in place that ensures all the relevant staff are aware of the new updates – refer Document Control Library Index in the relevant Manual/s.

**Make sure you know your facility's login details to access the Manuals**

### HICMR ASSESSMENT & REPORTING PROGRAM

- ✓ HICMR have developed 38 new automated Risk Assessment (RA) Tools to assess client compliance with current standards & practices.
- ✓ The RA Tools will undergo revision in line with updated Policies.
- ✓ Internal Audit (IA) Tools will also be developed for clients to self-audit compliance.
- ✓ Automated Reports, 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.

### STAFF HEALTH

#### Pregnant Healthcare Workers

- Certain infections can pose a risk to pregnant women and their foetuses.
- Some of these Infections can be acquired in the healthcare setting and include CMV, Hepatitis viruses, HIV, Parvovirus, Rubella and Varicella-zoster virus.
- Adherence to Standard and Additional Precautions, vaccination and high standards of general hygiene in the workplace should protect all HCWs, including pregnant HCWS.
- Influenza vaccine is recommended for pregnant women who will be in the second or third trimester during the flu season, including those in the first trimester at the time of vaccination.
- All staff of childbearing age should know their Varicella and Hepatitis B status.

**For further information refer Infection Control Policy: Staff Health, and related Toolkit.**

### STANDARDS/GUIDELINES UPDATE

The HICMR Infection Control Manuals are regularly reviewed and revised as new/existing Standards/Guidelines are updated/released. Some of the most recent updated Standards/Guidelines include:

- The Australian Immunisation Handbook (AIH) - 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2008. Released May 2008.
- National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5, 2005. Endorsed by AIH in 2008.
- CDNA Infection Control Guidelines for the prevention of infectious diseases in the Healthcare setting - Appendix 9: CJD. Released December 2007.

**You will be notified of updates via revised Policies - refer Client Portal > Policy Manuals.**

### TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

#### Legionnaire's Disease

**Cause:** Legionnaire's Disease is caused by the bacterium *Legionella pneumophila*. This bacterium is often found in low levels in the environment, but is also found in water cooling systems (cooling towers), warm water systems or water heaters, shower heads, spa pools or potting mix.

**Transmission:** through inhalation of contaminated aerosols. No person to person transmission reported.

**Incubation period:** usually 5- 6 days, can be 2-10 days.

**At risk groups:** males > females, immunosuppressed, diabetics, smokers, (rarely reported in children)

**Clinical Features:** Presents as severe pneumonia, often respiratory failure. Early symptoms are flu-like.

**Identification:** Isolation of *Legionella* from lung tissue, respiratory secretions, pleural fluid, blood/other tissue.

**Prevention:** Routine treatment, cleaning and maintenance of water cooling systems, warm water systems and water storage units. Only suitably experienced and skilled people should conduct the installation and maintenance of water-cooling systems.

**Treatment of disease:** Appropriate antibiotics, hospitalisation +/- ICU.

**Refer Infection Control Policy: Legionella Detection Management in Water Systems.**

### ENDO & SS WORKSHOPS

#### June-Sept 2008

- ✚ **Sterilising Services Workshops –**  
Adelaide: 11.6.08;  
Port Macquarie: 25.6.08;  
Melbourne: 27.8.08;  
Perth: 2.9.08.
- ✚ **Endoscopy Workshops –**  
Port Macquarie: 26.6.08;  
Adelaide: 13.8.08.
- ✚ **BCP Workshops –**  
Sydney: 11.9.08;  
Melbourne: 17.9.08.
- ✚ **Endo Precaptors –**  
Launceston: 3.7.08;  
Brisbane: 16.7.08;  
Adelaide: 12.8.08;  
Sydney: 11.9.08;  
Melbourne: 17.9.08.
- ✚ Please register ASAP, ie. at least 4/52 prior, as insufficient numbers result in cancelled Workshops.
- ✚ For further details or to Register: [www.hicmr.com.au](http://www.hicmr.com.au) > Workshops > Type of Workshops > State > Register online.
- ✚ Contact [workshops@hicmr.com.au](mailto:workshops@hicmr.com.au).

