



# HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

## MARCH 2008



To contact your **HICMR Consultant (ICC)** OR to report staff blood and body fluid exposure incidents (B&BFEI), call **paper 016 301 701**. **New:** B&BFEI Toolkit now available on the Client Portal.

### **HICMR CLIENT PORTAL**

The Infection Control Surgical-Acute Medical Policy Manual is now available on the Client Portal. This Manual has undergone extensive revision, with many new Policies.

- The revised Aged Care and NonSurgical Manuals will also be available soon.
- Day Surgery, Office Based Practice and Diagnostic Imaging Manuals are now available.
- The revised Endoscopy Manual will be progressively placed on the Client Portal in the next few weeks, including a new Education Toolkit and Assessment Tools.
- The Sterilising Services Manual is currently under review and will be progressively loaded onto the Client Portal over the next 2 months.
- All Manuals will be accompanied by Toolkits which will include Forms and other resources to assist in implementation.

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

### **HICMR ASSESSMENT & REPORTING PROGRAM**

- ✓ HICMR have been working in collaboration with Bignote and their Echidna application over the last 12 mths, to develop 38 new automated Risk Assessment (RA) Tools to assess client compliance with current standards and practices.
- ✓ RAs can now be conducted on hand-held PDAs!
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ See our HARP Trademark below!

### **STAFF HEALTH**

Prior to or on commencement of employment, staff should provide details of previous illness, proof of immunity or vaccination for the following diseases:

- Hepatitis B
- Varicella
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- Pertussis (Whooping cough)

(Staff born before 1966 are considered immune for MMR).

Influenza: Don't forget the flu season will be upon us soon. Place your name on the Influenza Immunisation Form provided in your department.

**For further information and relevant Forms refer Infection Control Manual: Staff Health, and Staff Health Toolkit.**

**Protect your Patients AND Yourself!**

### **CLINICAL UPDATE**

- Insulin vials are for single patient use only. Opened insulin must be stored in a locked drawer at the patient's bedside. It may be kept at room temperature after opening for up to 30 days. Unopened insulin should be stored in the ward/unit refrigerator.
- All Medication fridges must have their temperature recorded DAILY and action taken if outside correct temperature range.
- All vaccine fridges must have their temperature recorded at least daily and maintained between 2°- 8°C as per National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5.

**Refer Infection Control Manual Clinical Practice; and Staff Health.**

### **TOPIC OF THE MONTH: HANDWASHING**

Handwashing **is the single most effective means** of preventing the transmission of infection from one person to another. Use only TGA approved products.

**Social / Routine** – use mild liquid soap ie neutral pH:

- **Aseptic** – chlorhexidine 2% or 4%, Triclosan 1-2% or Povidine Iodine 7.5-10% prior to clinical procedures
- **Surgical Scrub** – Povidine Iodine 7.5-10% or Chlohexidine 2% or 4%.

**Hand Care:** Cuts, abrasions and other lesions on the skin should be occluded with a waterproof dressing. Hands should be thoroughly dried after washing and hand cream applied regularly to avoid drying and chapping of the skin.

**Nails:** Fingernails should be kept short, clean and free from nail polish or artificial nails.

**Alcohol based hand gel:** is effective in removing bacteria on the hands if handwashing is not possible. Hand gel should only be used on clean hands. If hands are soiled, they should be washed.

**Use of gloves:** Gloves should be worn when coming into contact with blood or body fluids. Hands are to be washed following the removal of gloves. Gloves must be patient specific and site specific.

**Refer to Infection Control Manual: Standard and Additional Precautions.**

### **HICMR EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS**

- ❖ The HICMR Self Directed Learning Packages are under review and will be available on the Client Portal in the next few weeks.
- ❖ The Endoscopy and Sterilising Services (SS) Workshop schedules for 2008 are now available on the website. **NEW** 1 day SS Workshops, and Endoscopy Preceptors Workshop for new and existing Preceptors are now available. Nb. Registration will only be accepted on an official Registration Form: [www.hicmr.com.au](http://www.hicmr.com.au) > **Workshops** > **Select type of Workshop** > **Select State** > **Register online.**
- ❖ Contact your HICMR ICC for other Infection Control education as required.



HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program

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