



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

MAY 2008



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

HICMR CLIENT PORTAL

New Policy: HCW clothing and accessories, including Lanyards, available in the Clinical Practice section of the Infection Control Manual.

- The new Aged Care Manual & Toolkits are now available on the Client Portal!
- The revised Non-Surgical Manual will be progressively placed on the client portal in the next few weeks.
- The revised Endoscopy Manual has been progressively placed on the Client Portal over the last few weeks, including a new Education Toolkit and HCWs Skills Assessment Tools.
- The Sterilising Services Manual is almost completed and will be progressively loaded onto the Client Portal over the next few weeks.
- All Manuals will be accompanied by Toolkits, which will include Forms and other resources to assist in 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.

HICMR ASSESSMENT & REPORTING PROGRAM (HARP)

- ✓ The recently developed 38 new automated Risk Assessment (RA) Tools will be reviewed in the near future, in line with changes in state/national standards/guidelines. Internal Audit (IA) Tools will also be developed for clients to self-assess 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.
- ✓ B&BFEI Reports will soon be available on the Client Portal.
- ✓ Infection Surveillance Reports soon to be developed for the Client Portal!

STAFF HEALTH

The IMMUNISATION HANDBOOK 9TH EDITION has now been released.

Updates include:

- ❖ National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5 now recommended.
- ❖ New pre-vaccination screening checklist is now available.
- ❖ Use of 1:1000 Adrenaline is now recommended.
- ❖ State and territories authorities should be contacted if a cold chain breach occurs.
- ❖ Change of equipment and technique, ie. needle gauge and angle.
- ❖ New vaccines added: Human papillomavirus, rotavirus and Zoster.

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

CLINICAL UPDATE MASKS

Must Dos:

- Be fitted and worn according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Not be touched by hands when worn.
- Cover both mouth and nose when worn.
- Be removed as soon as practicable after they become moist, or visibly soiled.
- Be removed by touching the strings and loops only, and
- Not be worn loosely around the neck, but removed and discarded as soon as practicable after use.

Refer to updated Infection Control Policy: Standard Precautions

TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

Personal Respiratory Protection Devices

- HCWs should wear masks whenever there is a possibility of splashing or splattering of blood, or other body fluids. Refer to the "Must Dos" above.
- The most suitable mask for the situation depends on body substances/nature of the activity.
- There are two main types of masks used in healthcare settings:
 - Surgical masks (AS 4381) – fluid repellent paper filter masks used during surgical and dental procedures. Prevents HCWs respiratory secretions from contaminating the operative site, and reduces the risk to HCWs from splashing and spraying of body substances. Masks must be worn by all HCWs in the OT during an invasive procedure.
 - Particulate filter personal protection devices (AS/NZS 1716) – close fitting masks capable of filtering 0.3um particles (N95) and worn when attending patients with active pulmonary tuberculosis, performing bronchoscopes or in the event of SARS/Pandemic Influenza.

Refer to updated Infection Control Policies: Standard and Additional Precautions, and May Information Sheet: SARS and Influenza A(H5N1): Interim guidelines.

EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS

- ❖ Please note, HICMR offer a range of Infection Control Workshops in most states/some regional areas, to ensure easy access. Due to demand for these, we are no longer able to offer client specific Workshops. All relevant HCWs should try to attend the Workshop closest to them. Please register ASAP, ie. at least 4/52 prior, as insufficient numbers result in cancelled Workshops.
- ❖ The Endoscopy and Sterilising Services (SS) Workshop schedules for 2008 are now available on the website. **NEW** 1 day SS Workshop, and half day Endoscopy Preceptors Workshop for new and existing Preceptors are now available.
- ❖ The half day Endoscopy (BCP) Workshop is now available in some states for all HCWs responsible for processing Bronchoscopes/Cystoscopes/Diagnostic Probes only.
- ❖ To Register: www.hicmr.com.au> Workshops>Type of Workshops>State>Register online.



HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program

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