

HANDS-ON INFECTION CONTROL NEWSLETTER AGED CARE

February 2019

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

In This Issue

- ACQSC
- Immunisation Resources
- Influenza Vaccination
- Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)
- New Team Member
- Education Resources

Important Dates

World Immunization Awareness Week

24-30 April 2019

World Hand Hygiene Day

5 May 2019

World Sepsis Day

13 September

Antibiotic Awareness Week

11 – 17 November 2019

ACIPC Conference 2019

18–20 November 2019, Perth

Guideline Updates

Communicable Diseases

Network Australia

December 2018

Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Healthcare Workers Living with Blood Borne Viruses and Healthcare Workers who Perform Exposure Prone Procedures at Risk of Exposure to Blood Borne Viruses.

Quick Links

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission newsletter subscription

<https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/subscribe>

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission commenced 1 January 2019. The Commission will be underpinned by a new aged care Charter of Rights and is set to enforce a new, single set of Quality Standards, the first upgrade of standards in 20 years.

The Commission will integrate and streamline the governance roles of the current Aged Care Complaints Commissioner and the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency creating a new one stop shop. From January 2020, it will also enforce the Department of Health's aged care licensing responsibilities

The commission is responsible for assisting the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner (Commissioner) with functions that include:

- protecting and enhancing the safety, health, well-being and quality of life of aged care consumers
- promoting the provision of quality care and services by approved providers of aged care services and service providers of commonwealth-funded aged care services
- consumer engagement
- complaints handling
- regulatory responsibilities
- providing information and education.

Key changes to audit processes includes:

- On each day of the site visit there will be a site meeting between at least one member of the audit team and the facility manager.
- On the last day of the review there will be a meeting between a member of the audit team and the facility manager to discuss key issues identified during the audit.
- The assessment team must submit a report to the commissioner within 14 days after completion of the review audit.

Immunisation Resources

The WA Department of Health has released Vaccine Updates 217 – Updated Immunisation Resource Information. Three immunization resources have been updated to assist immunisation practice:

- **New NCIRS website**
This provides an information hub and links to a wide range of resources and websites related to immunisation in Australia and globally.
- **AusVaxSafety first ever summary report 16/17**
The first annual report from the national surveillance system summarises information from parents/carers who responded to an SMS about their child's health a few days after receiving a routine scheduled vaccine 2016-17.
- **AIHW Vaccine preventable fact sheets**
A series of fact sheets prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare providing information about the 17 vaccine preventable diseases covered by the national immunization program.

Welcome to our newest team member



Nelly Leon commenced with the Hands-On Team on 1 February in the role of Sterilisation Advisor. She has a background of almost 21 years within WA sterilisation services as a CSSD technician, team leader, supervisor, preceptor, and manager. In this time, Nelly oversaw the refurbishment of a sterilisation department. Her most recent experience was with the transportation of reusable medical devices. Over the years she has demonstrated dedication, passion for excellence and significant achievements in her roles. Nelly will be available to undertake sterilising service risk assessments, education, technician competencies, and provide expert advice/support to our day hospital and office-based practice clients, including podiatrists who provide services to aged care homes.

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Influenza Vaccination

Influenza levels remain high in WA for this time of year, reflecting an increase in activity particularly in the metropolitan and Kimberley regions. Two influenza outbreaks have been reported in residential care facilities just recently. Now is a good time to plan for the influenza vaccination season at your facility. May/June is the ideal time to vaccinate residents, staff and volunteers. Include in your plan, who will vaccinate your residents and staff, how will you promote the program to your staff, and what will you need to do if the flu season comes early?

Aged Care Quality Standards: Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)

Standard 3: Personal Care and Clinical Care requires organisations to demonstrate practices to promote appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use to support optimal care and reduce the risk of increasing resistance to antibiotics.

Standard 8: Organisational Governance requires an organisation to demonstrate effective governance framework including AMS.

How are you able to demonstrate working towards infection prevention and control accreditation requirements? Do you have an AMS program in place? Education of clinical and care staff on AMS is important as they all play a role in an effective AMS program.

NPS Medicine Wise provide a number of free on-line courses for different aspects of Antimicrobial Stewardship, including:

- Urinary tract infections in residential aged care facilities; and
- Catheter associated urinary tract infections 2018.

These are available at:

<https://learn.nps.org.au/totara/coursecatalog/courses.php>

In addition the **Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC)** have a number of excellent resources to assist you.

Infection Control Education

The **ACSQHC** have developed a series of 10 free on-line learning modules that are ideal for Infection Prevention Resource/Link/Portfolio Holders. These are:

- Principles of infection prevention and control
- Risk management systems for infectious agents and infectious diseases
- Basic microbiology and multi-resistant organisms
- Cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation
- Infectious agent health screening and immunisation of healthcare workers
- Outbreak investigation and management
- Management of occupation exposure
- Renovation, repairs and redevelopment risk management
- Basic epidemiology/statistics
- Surveillance and quality improvement

There is also an Infection Prevention and Control Orientation Package for Health Care Workers. The modules are available at:

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/healthcare-associated-infection/infection-prevention-and-control-online-modules/>