



Inpatient and Day Hospitals

OCTOBER 2022 | SPRING NEWSLETTER



Message from the Director

Megan Reilly

Welcome colleagues to the Spring issue of our newsletter which I hope finds you well and staying strong in this COVID-19 transition period. While we all grapple with the concept of returning to business as usual in this COVID-19 world, we are mindful of the toll that this pandemic has taken and may continue to take on many - our colleagues, our family and our friends.

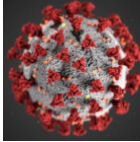
This issue provides an update on key COVID-19 and IPC issues, guidelines and podcasts, what's new in the literature, and upcoming conferences and events. October and November are focused on national and international Infection Prevention and Antimicrobial Awareness Weeks which I hope that you will be able to participate in, in some small way in your busy work schedules. The links will provide access to promotional tools and activities. In addition, the international 2022 Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) Conference is being held in Sydney 13 - 16 November. Both face-to-face and online registration is available this year for the pre-conference workshops and main conference program. As a member of the Scientific Conference Organising Committee, I will be attending the conference, mentoring several first time presenters, and co-presenting and co-facilitating the aged care workshop. I look forward to networking with fellow ICPs, our industry trade partners and speakers. I anticipate much discussion about COVID-19, antimicrobial resistance and new paradigms for IPC in relation to contact, droplet and airborne transmission and related precautions. Watch this space!

Until our next newsletter stay safe and well by keeping that work-life balance.

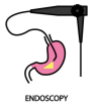
Kind regards,

Megan

In this issue



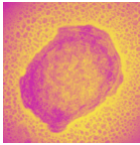
19)



**Endoscope storage
and reprocessing**



**Podcast: Infection
Control Matters**



Monkeypox



Conferences



**Droplet dispersal
study**



Events

COVID-19 Update

New bivalent COVID-19 vaccine

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended the Moderna Spikevax Bivalent Original/Omicron BA.1 can be used as an alternative vaccine for any booster dose in people aged 18 years or older.

ATAGI has found Moderna bivalent vaccine showing a small incremental benefit over the original vaccine for Omicron neutralisation.

[Read the ATAGI statement here.](#)

COVID-19 Links & Resources

COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Hospitals (v15.0 - Updated August 2022).

WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response (SAR)

WA Health's System Alert and Response (SAR) - COVID-19 Framework fact sheet

WA Health COVID-19 - Furloughing of healthcare staff - Interim guidance

WA Health COVID-19 - COVID-19 Public Hospital Visitor Guidelines (v 12.1, Updated September 2022).

COVID-19 State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) Public Health

**Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) Guideline - Use of Air Purifiers
in WA Healthcare Facilities**

**The COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units (v7.3 - Updated
September 2022)**

COVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management guidance

Infection Control Expert Group (ICEG) Guidance

National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce

VICNISS Literature Reviews on COVID-19

Stop COVID-19: Break the chain of infection poster

Combined contact and droplet precautions poster

Combined airborne and contact precautions poster

In focus

Endoscope storage and reprocessing

Regular checks of compliance are vital to cabinet safety

In March 2022, the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) released ANSI/AAMI ST91:2021 *flexible and semi-rigid endoscope processing in health care facilities*. This updated standard reflects current research and advancements in endoscope processing and recommends two types of storage cabinets for HLD- and LCS-processed endoscopes. Accordingly, Pasternak and Taylor reviewed the new ST91 updates and performed routine checks to validate the three campuses of their large teaching hospital's compliance with the new recommendations.

They found that endoscopy endoscope cabinets at one of the campuses needed attention. Of the four storage cabinets in place, one cabinet door did not close properly and the fan systems in each cabinet were inoperable. The management team at that location was unaware of the situation and the employees had not reported any problems. The cabinets at the other two campuses appeared to be in order, however the insides of the fan unit

contained an excessive amount of dust on the internal components and dust accumulation on the ceiling above the cabinets, despite daily cleaning. They discovered the filtered fans were installed improperly by the manufacturer, reversing the airflow from the floor through the cabinet's grommets, past the stored endoscopes, and out the top. The fans were replaced and all endoscopes reprocessed.

This study highlighted the importance of regular routine checks to validate compliance and ensure safe endoscope processing and storage.

[Read more about the study here.](#)

Recent study finds automated cleaning is superior for reusable scopes

In a presentation at the 2021 American College of Gastroenterology meeting, Dr Michael O'Donnell presented the findings of a comparison of automated versus manual cleaning of duodenoscopes.

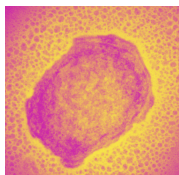
In this study, conducted with Olympus TJF-Q180V duodenoscopes, 21 of 48 scopes were cleaned manually after endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). The remainder were cleaned with the automated proprietary cleaning system called MACH I (Parametrik). The instrument channels and distal elevator areas were then sampled for residual protein and carbohydrates.

After cleaning, two of the 21 manually cleaned duodenoscopes had protein levels exceeding the FDA safety threshold. In addition, three of the manually cleaned duodenoscopes exceeded the FDA threshold for carbohydrates. In contrast, none of the duodenoscopes that underwent automated processing exceeded either threshold. Despite the limited size of the study, the difference for these outcomes combined was significant ($P=0.03$).

[Read more about the study here.](#)

Update: HPU 190 Sterilizing Services and Endoscope Reprocessing Unit

An updated revision of [HPU 190 Sterilizing Services and Endoscope Reprocessing Unit \(Revision 7, August 2022\)](#) has been uploaded to the AusHFG website.



[In the news](#)

Monkeypox (MPX) situation declared a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance

(MPX) in Australia to be a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance. In Australia, there have been 44 cases – the majority of which have been within returned international travellers.

[You can read the statement here.](#)

Resources:

In the literature

Droplet dispersal study

A study by Ofstead et al. (2022) published in the *American Journal of Infection Control* has examined the dispersal of droplets in decontamination areas of instrument reprocessing suites. Visible droplets were produced during almost every activity in a recent simulation of decontaminating reusable medical instruments and equipment, with droplets sometimes traveling as much as 5 feet from a sink. Accordingly, the project found that routine reprocessing activities generated substantial splashing, and currently recommended personal protective equipment did not adequately protect sterile processing personnel from exposure.

[Read the article here.](#)

Guideline Update

Communicable Disease Control Directorate

The updated *Use of Air Purifiers in WA Healthcare Facilities' Guideline (V2)* is now published on the [CDCD guidelines](#) page, [here](#)

Revised PPE Policy

The [MP 0172/22 Identification and Use of Personal Protective Equipment in the Clinical Setting Policy](#) is now published.

This replaces the previous edition MP 0133/20 *Identification and Use of PPE in the Clinical Setting During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Policy*, which is available in the archive.

PODCAST

Infection Control Matters

Professor Brett Mitchell and colleagues have developed a podcast series on all things infection control called 'Infection Control Matters'. The podcast is free, not sponsored and has no advertisements. They range from between 10 to 25 minutes in length.

You can listen to this podcast through the podcast [website](#), or via your preferred podcast provider, links are on the website..



You can also keep up to date about the podcast and new episodes via Twitter ([@1healthau](#) ; [@emrsa15](#) or [@PLR_aus](#)).

Upcoming

Conferences

Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control

ACIPC International Conference

The 2022 ACIPC International Conference will take place 13 – 16 November in hybrid format, with the in-person component of the event to be held at the International Convention Centre, Sydney. The theme for this year's conference is: *Leading through the expanding horizons of IPC*.



Find out more



ACORN

ACORN 2022: Virtual conference series

In light of the ongoing COVID situation, ACORN have opted to pivot the ACORN 2022 International Conference of Perioperative Nursing to a virtual conference series of single-day events. The 2022 ACORN Virtual conference comprises five single-day conference events. The date for the remaining single-day conference event and stream is:

- 26 November – Health and wellbeing

More information can be found [here](#).

Upcoming

Events

IPC Events

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Week

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) week is celebrated during the third week of October each year to coincide with International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW).

The theme for IPC week every year is Infection prevention and control is safe health care for everyone, all the time. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care supports IPC Week by providing a range of resources to support effective infection prevention and control initiatives and local activities across the week.

Find out more



International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW)

International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW) was established in 1986 to highlight the importance of infection prevention and control each year. This year IIPW 2022 takes place from 16 to 22 October 2022.

This year's theme is *"The Future is Infection Prevention: 50 Years of Infection Prevention"* to highlight decades of infection prevention throughout 50 years and inspire the next generation of ICPs to join the fight.

Find out more

Antimicrobial Awareness Week

Antimicrobial awareness week is coming up from 18-24 November. It is encouraged for NAPS auditing to be completed before November, so you can present the results as part of your local AAW activities.

This year for AAW22, the National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship have organised [a series of events](#) including a series of online webinars. There will be a [hybrid all-day symposium](#) on Friday 18th November 2022 at the Doherty Institute.





AAW 2022 Workshops

Online

All times in AEDT

21

MON

1pm - 2pm



Guidance: Supporting a Systems Approach to Antimicrobial Stewardship

Co-chairs: Ms Jenna Maleki & Mr Ron Cheah

2:30pm - 4:30pm



A Learning Health System Program for Antibiotic Allergy De-labelling

Chair: Prof Jason Trubiano

22

TUE

10am - 12pm



Innovating Antibiograms

Co-chairs: A/Prof Lisa Hall & Dr Teresa Wozniak (CSIRO)

1pm - 2:30pm



Making Antimicrobial Stewardship Sustainable

Chair: Dr Minyon Avent (Queensland Statewide AMS Service)

2pm - 5:30pm



Nurses in Antimicrobial Stewardship

Chair: Ms Fiona Gotterson

5:30pm - 7pm



How to Dose Antimicrobials During RRT and ECMO

Chair: Prof Jason Roberts (CRE-RESPOND)

23

WED

10am - 12pm



Antimicrobial Stewardship Challenges in the Peri-operative Setting

Chair: Dr Rod James

1pm - 2pm



International Antimicrobial Stewardship Opportunities: Fleming Fund

Chair: Mr Ron Cheah

2:30pm - 4:30pm



Antimicrobial Stewardship in Specific Settings: What do we know and how does that affect

Chair: Ms Kristin Xenos

6pm - 8pm



Optimising Antibiotic Prescribing in General Practice: Who, what, how and when?

Chair: Dr Ruby Biezen

24

THU

12pm - 2pm



Antimicrobial Stewardship in the Immunocompromised Patient

Chair: Prof Kerin Thursky

1:30pm - 3:30pm



Priorities for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Aged Care

Chair: A/Prof Noleen Bennett

Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022 MELBOURNE

A Learning Health Systems Approach to Antimicrobial Stewardship

Sponsored by the **National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship** and the **Centre for Digital Transformation of Health**

18

SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY 18th NOVEMBER
8:30am - 5:00pm AEDT

Face-to-face (limited capacity) or **Online**
\$50 early-bird (pre 17th October)
\$85 general admission (18th October)
\$15 students

 The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity
Auditorium Ground Floor
792 Elizabeth St, Melbourne VIC 3000

21-24

WORKSHOPS

MONDAY 21st NOVEMBER TO
THURSDAY 24th NOVEMBER

Online only
All workshops are free



REGISTER

FOR FACE-TO-FACE OR ONLINE ATTENDANCE AT:

<https://www.ncas-australia.org/antimicrobial-awareness-week-2022>



Quick Links

NSQHS Standards

WA Health COVID-19

ACSQHC COVID-19



HANDS-ON INFECTION CONTROL

Unit 1 / 120-122 Lake Street, Perth WA
6000
(P.O. Box 233 North Perth, WA 6906)

info@handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au

You received this email because you signed
up on our website or are a current client.

[Unsubscribe](#)

