



Inpatient and Day Hospitals

FEBRUARY 2022 | SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Message from the Director

Megan Reilly

A New Year and a New Challenge – increasing COVID-19 community transmission as we prepare for the opening of our state (WA) and international borders. Our team is very conscious of the incredible work that is being undertaken to review your preparedness and response plans in light of the almost daily amendments and additions to how we will manage going forward. We continue to assist you through this process and apply the learnings from supporting and advising our clients in the eastern states.

Understandably, this Summer issue of the newsletter continues to have a focus on COVID-19. Last week culminated in the long awaited release of important publications. In particular, the Chief Health Officer Andy Robertson released the [WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response \(SAR\)](#) with a global announcement to the Public Hospitals/Health Services that the Perth/Peel and the South-West are now in an Interim Amber phase of Alert. This document is supported by a number of other key publications including fact sheets which will also assist the private hospital sector with hospital visitation, proof of vaccination Directions, furloughing of healthcare workers following high risk exposure in the workplace, testing and elective surgery procedures including day procedures. These publications have been bundled on the WA Health COVID-19 website for easy access and are included in our COVID-19 Links & Resources.

Until our next newsletter, stay strong and safe!

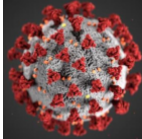
Kind regards,

Megan

In this issue

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

HISWA Manual



NSQHS Updates



ACORN Conferences

COVID-19 Update

Booster Doses

ATAGI now recommends that the eligibility for COVID-19 booster vaccination be expanded for adults aged 18 and older. Currently, the recommended interval between the second dose and booster dose is 3 months.

The WA Chief Health Officer has issued the [Booster Vaccination \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions](#) to make COVID-19 vaccination boosters mandatory for people captured by existing access restriction directions.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna- 50µg) are recommended for use as a booster vaccine, and both are considered equally acceptable. AstraZeneca can be used for people who have contraindications to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. More information on booster doses is available [here](#).

Novavax

Nuvaxovid (Novavax) has received provisional approval from the TGA and ATAGI for use as a primary vaccine. This is the first protein COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Australia, it uses a non-infectious component found on the surface of the coronavirus to trigger an immune response. Read the TGA media release [here](#), and the ATAGI statement [here](#).

In the literature

Variations in COVID-19 airway management and preparedness among Victorian hospitals

In [this study](#) by Jordan et al. twenty Victorian hospitals completed a survey on their airway management practices and protocols, in order to assess the degree of variability in practice and preparedness. Significant inter-hospital variations were reported in airway management practices, such as pre-oxygenation, bag-mask ventilation, medications and techniques to minimise aerosolisation. The study highlights areas for improvement such as; the establishment of COVID-19 intubation teams in at least major metropolitan hospitals, N95 mask fit-testing, and the use of airborne precautions for cardiac arrest management during times of increased community prevalence of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Links & Resources

COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Hospitals (v12.0 - Updated January 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

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

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

The COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units (v6.4 - Updated January 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

NSQHS Updates

DRAFT AS 5369:2021 Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities

In November, Standards Australia released a draft of AS5369 Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities for public comment. AS5369 will replace AS/NZS4187 and AS/NZS4815 once published. You can view the draft [here](#) (registration with Standards Australia is required), the draft comment period closed on 24/01/2022.

Updates to the NAPS indicators

NAPS have clarified reporting on the set of indicators as outlined by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care for the new [Clinical Care Standards for Antimicrobial Stewardship](#). They reported on this at the recent Antimicrobial Awareness Week seminar, [click here](#) to view the recording (at approximately 1:54:50 into the session).

Currently both the Hospital and Surgical NAPS meet some of these indicators very well, but there are few indicators NAPS plans to incorporate into the survey to improve reporting:

1. Incorporate relevant simplified indicators, with results to be exported into Excel for data analysis - proposed for 2022 release.
2. A more comprehensive indicator analysis, with inbuilt reporting functionality - proposed for 2023 release.

NAPS Audit Dates

The Hospital, Surgical and Quality Improvement NAPS audit period has been announced as being 14 January - 14 December 2022.

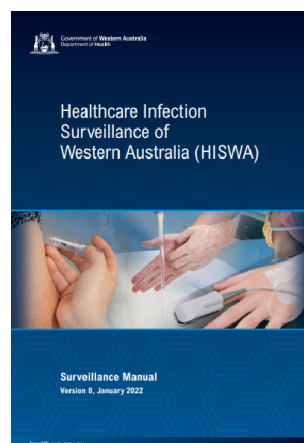
New Resource

There is a new document, [Survey Manager Roles and Responsibilities](#), available to assist Survey Managers in their role.

Version 8, January 2022

HISWA Surveillance Manual

The Infection Prevention, Policy, & Surveillance Unit (IPPSU) has released the updated Healthcare Infection Surveillance of Western Australia (HISWA) Surveillance Manual. There are no major changes to surveillance criteria, however some definitions have been updated along with quality of life changes. The manual can be accessed [here](#).



Warning!



Counterfeit Nitrile Gloves

The TGA has released an advisory warning of issues related to nitrile gloves. Certain medical nitrile gloves imported from Thailand have been identified as counterfeit, posing possible safety and quality concerns. To date, the TGA has not received any reports of adverse events related to these gloves. Consumers and health professionals are strongly encouraged to report problems with medical devices.

[Read more](#)

In the literature

Pre-operative and post-operative recommendations to surgical wound care interventions

[A recent article](#) by Gillespie et al. in the *Journal of Perioperative Nursing* has examined the recommendations for nursing practice and research from published systematic Cochrane reviews on nurse-led pre-operative prophylaxis and post-operative surgical wound care interventions used or initiated by nurses. The study appraised the methodological quality of the included reviews using A MeaSurement Tool to Assess Systematic Reviews 2 (AMSTAR 2) checklist. Across the included reviews 63.6% made at least one recommendation to undertake a specific practice, while 9.1% made at least one specific recommendation not to undertake a practice. The authors concluded that there was a lack of recommendations which reflected a gap in the fundamentals of nursing care which could be addressed by further rigorous trials.

[Read the article](#)

E-Learning

Updated Principles of Infection Prevention and Control eLearning module

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in



Health Care (ACSQHC) has updated the *Principles of infection prevention and control* eLearning module to ensure consistency with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, specifically the Preventing and Controlling Infections Standard, and the *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Health Care*.

[Access the module](#)

Upcoming Events

Conferences and Virtual Events



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 will comprise five single-day conference events. The proposed dates for the single-day conference events and streams are:

1. 26 February – Perioperative fundamentals
2. 21 May – Quality and safety
3. 23 July – Advanced practice nursing
4. 24 September – Leadership and mentoring
5. 26 November – Health and wellbeing

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

Quick Links

[NSQHS Standards](#)

[WA Health COVID-19](#)

[ACSQHC COVID-19](#)



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