



Inpatient and Day Hospitals

AUGUST 2021 | WINTER NEWSLETTER



Message from the Director

Megan Reilly

How fortunate most of our clients are to live in Western Australia at this time. Good management and perhaps some good luck has minimised community transmission in this state to date. However, there is absolutely no room for complacency as we observe from afar the situation in NSW, Victoria and Queensland. Our thoughts and support are with our clients and colleagues in these states, and to those in SA, Tasmania, the Top End and WA, continue diligently with your prevention strategies.

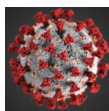
While the focus has largely been on COVID-19 these past months, and despite influenza activity remaining below interseasonal levels (a good news story!), there has been an increase in the number of other acute respiratory illnesses (ARI) in the community which has impacted on many of our residential aged care clients. Rhinovirus, human metapneumovirus and parainfluenza respiratory infection outbreaks have caused significant disruption to facility operations, resident and staff health and well-being. These organisms are largely introduced into healthcare facilities by staff and visitors so a timely opportunity to review the effectiveness of your entry health and travel screening program, and transmission-based precautions system and processes.

With this year's somewhat challenging influenza vaccination program now delivered, our attention has turned to face-to-face (while we are able) IPC education, training and competencies, on-site risk assessments, AC NAPS annual surveys, policy and procedure manual reviews, and virtual meetings to support IPC Clinical Leads. Upcoming events include the SRACA WA Conference (23 October), ACIPC International Conference in SA (7 – 10 November) where I will be presenting on staff health to residential aged care clinical leads, and World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (18 – 24 November).

Stay safe and well.

Megan

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Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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COVID-19 Vaccination Update

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) currently recommends the Pfizer (Comirnaty) COVID-19 vaccine for adults aged under 60s. For over 60s ATAGI advise that the benefits of vaccination with the AstraZeneca vaccine outweigh the risks associated with vaccination. The AstraZeneca vaccine can be provided to under 60s

when the benefits clearly outweigh the risk for that individual (e.g. during a local outbreak of the Delta strain of COVID-19) and/or when the person has made an informed decision and provided formal consent to have the vaccine. More information is available [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccines - Is it true?

Evidence based answers to questions about COVID-19 vaccines.

The Department of Health has developed an initiative to help people make informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccination by providing evidence-based answers to questions about the COVID vaccine and countering misinformation. Find out more [here](#).



New Guidance for Health Care Workers

PPE and COVID-19

On 10 June 2021 the Australian government published new guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers in the context of COVID-19. The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce has now published its full set of consensus guidance on the use of P2/N95 respirators, surgical masks and eye protection. You can view it [here](#) on the online guideline platform MAGICapp.

In the literature

The value of trained observers for PPE donning and doffing

[A recent in-press article](#) by Picard et al. in the *American Journal of Infection Control* has examined the value of having trained observers to monitor donning and doffing of PPE during an in-hospital COVID-19 outbreak. The authors found that PPE donning and doffing errors were common and that audits by trained observers can identify opportunities for infection prevention and control (IPC) and quality improvement. They concluded that the real time feedback may be associated with a reduction in IPC errors. The article also includes information on training and audit tools which may be of interest.

[Read the article](#)

In the literature

COVID changes to Post Anaesthesia Care Unit nursing practices

[A recent article](#) by Stapleton in *Journal of Perioperative Nursing* may be of interest. In the article, changes to routine personal protective equipment (PPE) practice in the Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU) of a regional tertiary referral hospital as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are discussed. The recommended changes to routine PPE and handover within the perioperative department included the routine use of Level 3 masks for staff caring for a patient with an airway in place or when performing aerosolising procedures and the use of an anaesthetic to PACU handover 'cheat sheet'.

COVID-19 Links & Resources

[COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Hospitals \(v7.0 - Updated July 2021\)](#)

[COVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management guidance](#)

[The COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units \(v4.7 - Updated June 2021\)](#)

[Infection Control Expert Group \(ICEG\) Guidance](#)

[National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce](#)

[VICNISS Literature Reviews on COVID-19](#)

NSQHS Updates

New NSQHS Standard: Management of Peripheral Catheters Clinical Care

The [Management of Peripheral Intravenous Catheters Clinical Care Standard](#) was released on the 26th May 2021. This standard was developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, in consultation with consumers and healthcare professionals. The clinical care standard aims to ensure the best chance of cannulas being inserted correctly the first time – and being well maintained to avoid complications. Information for clinicians and consumers and a video from the launch are available [here](#). For more information see [the media release](#) and a literature review by Dr Lyn-li Lim at VICNISS [here](#).

New NSQHS Standard: Preventing and Controlling Infections

The [2021 Preventing and Controlling Infections Standard](#) supersedes the [2017 Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standard](#). The new standard provides further support to health service organisations to prevent, control and respond to infections that cause outbreaks, epidemics or pandemics, including novel and emerging infections reflecting lessons learnt from the response to COVID. A factsheet explaining the differences between the new and old standards is available [here](#).

AS 21/01 Implementing the Preventing and Controlling Infections Standard

The NSQHS has also released an advisory to clarify the requirements for the transition between the *2017 Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standard* and the *2021 Preventing and Controlling Infections Standard*. The Advisory can be read [here](#).

Extension requests for compliance with reprocessing requirements (AS/NZS 4187:2014)

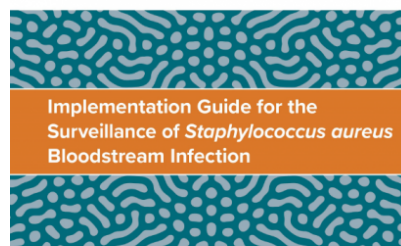
[Advisory AS18/07: Reprocessing of reusable medical devices in health service organisations](#) describes the timeframes and minimum requirements for health service organisations to comply with Action 3.18 (previously Action 3.14) of the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards.

ACSQHS

**Implementation Guide for the
Surveillance of *Staphylococcus
aureus* bloodstream infection.**

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has undertaken a review and update of the Implementation Guide for the Surveillance of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia infection. The purpose of the Guide is to support standardised national surveillance and reporting of *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infection (SABSI) in Australian public hospitals.

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As part of this review the following changes have been made to the case definition:

- A change in terminology to *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infection (SABSI) to more accurately reflect the clinical disease.
- Criterion A addressing infections detected 48 hours after admission or less than 48 hours after discharge has been separated into two sub criteria (A1 and A2) to clarify the concept of “incubating on admission”
- Criterion B2 addressing infection associated with surgery has been revised to include an extended surveillance period for deep incisional/organ space infections related to surgically implanted devices, recognising the possibility of a delay in presentation of infection
- Criterion B4 addressing infection associated with neutropenia has been revised to clarify that the application of the criteria is only for situations where the infection is not associated with an indwelling medical device (covered by Criterion B1).

June 2021



Find out more and read the review [here](#).

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ACSQHS

Updates to the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare

There have been amendments to the Guidelines from April 2021 and July 2021. These are as follows:

April 2021

- Amended Section 3.1.2 Use and management of sharps, safety engineered devices and medication vials, to highlight Passive and Active safety devices, the two broad categories of safety-engineered devices. Also added Standard AS 3825: 2020 to the reference for more information on the handling and disposal of sharps.
- Added definitions for Safety-engineered device, Passive safety device and Active safety devices to Section 8 Glossary.

July 2021

- Amended three entries in Table A2.5 in Section 6.4. Corrected the required precautions for parainfluenza to S + D, deleted the pneumonia entry under *Staphylococcus aureus* as only standard precautions apply and amended the additional comments for SARS-CoV-2 to align with the latest Infection Control Expert Group (ICEG) advice.
- Added references to the [ACSQHC's environmental cleaning resources](#) in sections 3.1.3, 3.1.3.1, 3.2.1 and 4.1.3 that support the AICGs recommendations on this topic.
- Amended Section 3.3 Personal protective equipment to highlight what it means to use PPE as part of standard or transmission-based precautions.
- Amended Sections 3.1.2 Use and management of sharps, safety engineered devices and medication vials and 4.1.5 Taking an organisational systems approach to infection prevention quality and safety to further highlight Passive and Active safety device use.

- Amended Section 1 Introduction to highlight the use of the guidelines in acute health settings.

Where possible, refer to the live and most up-to-date version of the Guidelines, which is available through [MagicApp](#) and see the Table of Amendments [here](#).



ACSQHS

New resources: Environmental cleaning

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has produced a suite of environmental cleaning resources to support health service organisations in their infection prevention and control activities, particularly during COVID-19. Two new resources have been added to the existing suite of environmental cleaning resources.



1. Environmental cleaning principles for small health organisations; and,
2. Environmental cleaning: Information for cleaners.

These resources support the recommendations for environmental cleaning from the National Safety and Quality Health Services standards and the implementation of the environmental cleaning requirements of the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare.

[Find out more here](#)

Draft Guidelines

GESA Infection Prevention and Control in Endoscopy 2021

The review and endorsement period for the Draft Guidelines for GESA Infection Prevention and Control in Endoscopy 2021 closed on 21st of July 2021. The Draft Guidelines are still available to view, however, and cover current infection prevention and control techniques, protocols, devices and equipment.



[Read the draft here](#)



Important update Surgical NAPS eLearning will be launched in the coming weeks.

Please complete the module when prompted, you will need to pass the assessment quiz to finalise patient data.

The 2021 official benchmarking period for the Surgical NAPS is open.

[In the literature](#)

Undertaking the surgical count: An observational study

[A recent article](#) by Warwick et al. in the *Journal of Perioperative Nursing* has examined perioperative nurses' surgical count practices using the Surgical Count Observational Tool in a large public tertiary hospital in Western Australia. The study aimed to measure conformity with standardised processes and identify any barriers and enablers influencing nurses' practices. The authors found consistency and compliance rates were lower than expected at 60% compliance, with a variety of factors acting as barriers to best practice including patient, case, environmental and expectations of colleagues. However, they also found that nurses' knowledge acted as an enabling factor.

[Read the article](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

Conferences

[Registrations Open](#)

GESA AGW 2021 Virtual Conference

Registration for the Gastroenterological Society of Australia (GESA) annual conference is now open. The conference will be held in a virtual format, Saturday 4th – Sunday 12th September 2021. Registration includes access to live streaming, on-demand sessions, a virtual exhibition hall, e-posters and digital slide presentations.



[Find out more](#)



[Moving Online](#)

Day Hospitals Australia 2021 Online Conference

The Day Hospitals Australia 2021 National Conference is moving online! Due to current lockdowns and border restrictions across Australia, the Day Hospitals Australia 2021 National Conference will now be held online from 8 – 10th September.

[Find out more](#)

[Save the Date!](#)

SRACA WA State Conference

The Sterilizing Research & Advisory Council Of Australia (W.A.) Inc. (SRACA) is pleased to announce their WA State Conference for 2021 will be held in October. The state conference will take place at the Duxton Hotel on Saturday 23rd October 2021. Places are limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, so register your interest soon!



[Find out more](#)

Save the Date!



ACIPC International Conference

To help facilitate the participation of international colleagues and those unable to travel to Adelaide in the event of border closures the 2021 ACIPC International Conference will be delivered as a hybrid event with both in-person and online attendance options. The in-person conference will take place at the Adelaide Convention Centre, 7 – 10th November.

[Find out more](#)

Quick Links

[NSQHS Standards](#)

[WA Health COVID-19](#)

[ACSQHC COVID-19](#)



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