

# Hands-On Newsletter

June 2014

Winter Issue



Megan Reilly, Director of Hands-On Infection Control



Natasha Nunes, Infection Prevention Advisor/Immunisation Nurse



**HANDS-ON INFECTION CONTROL**

## Message from our Director

Welcome to the Winter issue of our new look newsletter which we hope you will enjoy reading. In addition to our new look newsletter we have a new look website which I invite you to view <http://handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au/>

It has been busy times for the HOIC team during March to June as we administered the influenza immunisation program to our valued corporate, healthcare and government clients throughout metropolitan, rural and remote Western Australia. It's not too late so please telephone our office or contact us via our website to book your flu or any other vaccination clinic with our experienced immunisation nurses Chris, Sandra or Tash <http://handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au/services/staff-immunisation/>

Our 2014 education and training program is well underway in WA and South Australia for day surgery/procedure facilities, residential and community care services. The cleaning workshop for residential cleaning services staff is proving to be very popular and places are still available for the July (Adelaide) and October (Perth) workshops <http://handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au/education-and-training/>

## New Edition to the Team

In October 2013, we were delighted to have Natasha Nunes joined the HOIC team. Tash's nursing career started as an enrolled nurse working in the Pilbara before moving to Perth to undertake her Bachelor of Nursing degree which she completed in 2001.

For the next 10 years, Tash primarily worked in the haemodialysis setting for both adult and paediatric patients. During this time she completed a post graduate certificate in nephrology and infection prevention and control.

Tash has experience in infection prevention and control in a variety of Perth hospitals as well as ambulatory care services. In 2009 she obtained her immunisation Certificate and completed "gold standard" auditor training. Many of you may know Tash as the Hand Hygiene Australia Coordinator for WA. In addition, she is currently working towards her Certificate IV in workplace training and assessment and is a member of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control.

Suite 1/ 120 Lake Street  
Perth WA 6000  
[www.handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au](http://www.handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au)

E: [info@handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au](mailto:info@handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au)  
T: 61-8-9227 1132  
M: 0417 178 935  
F: 61-8-9227 1134

## DoHWA Operational Directives

The Department of WA has recently published the following infection control related operational directives. This is an opportunity to review your policies, procedures and protocols on these issues:

### OD 0531/14

Re-Use of Single Use Devices

### OD 0516/14

Infection Prevention and Control of Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities (HCFs)

### OD 0500/14

Use of Macerator Machines for the Disposal of Human Waste in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities

### OD 0491/14

National Guidelines for the Public Health Management of Pertussis

### OD 0478/13

Infection Prevention and Control of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities (HCFs)

All operational directives can be downloaded from <http://www.health.wa.gov.au/CircularsNew/search.cfm>

## Infection Prevention & Control Orientation Package For HealthCare Workers

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare has made available a free online learning resource aimed at preventing the spread of infection for all health-care workers.

The package allows participants to work through each module at their own pace, thereby providing maximum flexibility for individuals and their learning needs.

Upon completion of all modules, a certificate is created for instant download or printing.

The orientation package can be accessed via: <http://education.safetyandquality.gov.au/login.php>

## AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY & QUALITY IN HEALTHCARE

To further promote and facilitate key learning opportunities within infection control, the Commission's 10 online learning modules are once again available via the website: <http://infectionprevention.e3learning.com.au/>

## Clinical Care Standards

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare are in the process of developing a set of clinical care standards to assist in delivering quality care.

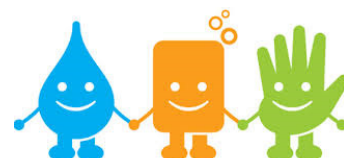
The priority areas for clinical care standards are

- Acute coronary syndrome
- Stroke
- Antimicrobial stewardship

The consultation period for Antimicrobial Stewardship has recently closed.

For more information on the standard and to stay informed on any new publications visit <http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/clinical-care-standards/>

## INFECTION PREVENTION THE RESPONSIBILITY IS IN YOUR HANDS



## Vaccination Remains Your Best Defence

Vaccination against this season's influenza is well underway around the country. The 2014 seasonal influenza vaccine differs from that of last year's, as two new strains of the virus have been identified and therefore included in the current vaccine. This makes it especially important for people to remain diligent in being vaccinated, as any residual immunity from previous vaccinations will not be effective in preventing these new strains for 2014.

### The Disease

Influenza is a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening disease spread between people through sneezing, coughing, and touching contaminated surfaces.

It causes nearly 2,500 deaths, and 18,000 hospitalisations per year. Healthcare workers are at risk of transmitting the virus to vulnerable patients and clients.

### Vaccination

Is up to 90% effective in preventing influenza in healthy people aged up to 65 years.

It can take up to 14 days after vaccination to develop full protection against the disease.

Ref: NHMRC. Australian Immunisation Handbook, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., 2013)

### *DID YOU KNOW?*

*Influenza causes approximately 1,500 deaths, 18,000 hospitalisations and 300,000 GP consultations annually in Australia*  
(Influenza Specialist Group, 2013)

### *I'M PREGNANT – IS IT OKAY TO HAVE A FLU SHOT?*

***Influenza vaccination is recommended for all pregnant women at any stage of their pregnancy***

***This will also provide ongoing protection to newborn babies for the first 6 months of life***

## Can I Still get The Flu Even if I'm Vaccinated?

It is sometimes possible to contract the 'flu despite having received the vaccination. This may happen because:-

- Exposure to the flu virus occurred just prior to vaccination, or during the 14 days needed to develop full immunity.
- Of exposure to a different strain of flu virus not included in the current 2014 seasonal vaccine.
- The protection provided by the vaccines can vary according to a person's age and overall health. Generally, flu vaccination is more effective among healthy younger adults and older children. However, vaccination remains the most effective way to minimise the risk of the disease.

Ref: Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

***The vaccine contains inactivated or killed influenza viruses and therefore cannot cause influenza***

**“FOR CONTINUING PROTECTION, VACCINATE YEARLY”**

# Education and Training

June 2014

Winter Issue

There is still time to register your interest for the Hand-On Infection Control professional development events in Adelaide and Perth during 2014.

We have a couple of seminars and workshops scheduled for residential and community care in the coming months.

4 July, 26 September and 3 November 2014

[Infection Prevention Seminars for Residential and Community Care](#)

Topics covered include:

- Improving hand hygiene compliance
- MRSA & CRE – What's new?
- Bacterial impact on wound healing
- Norovirus – A challenging pathogen
- Antimicrobial wipes – Do they work?
- Influenza
- Environmental infection control issues
- Nuts and bolts of surveillance
- Outbreak investigation and management

3 July, 25 August, 26 August and 14 October 2014

[Infection Prevention Workshop for Health Care Services](#)

Topics covered include:

- Chain of infection model
- Risk management approach
- The why, where, when and how of cleaning
- New technologies
- Evaluating cleaning effectiveness
- Occupational safety and health issues

## Have you seen this?

### **Vaxiplace – The vaccine community for professionals**

Your vaccination portal for the latest immunisation information, news, articles, videos and support materials to support your practice

<http://www.vaxiplace.com.au/>

### **Vaccine Hub – Get the facts on immunisation**

Help your patients to find out about vaccine-preventable diseases, learn how to protect themselves and their families at home and away, and the importance of vaccination

<http://www.vaccinehub.com.au/>

### **References**

1. NHMRC. (2013). Australian Immunisation Handbook, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Canberra: National Capital Press, 2013.
2. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. What You Should Know for the 2013-2014 Flu Season. <http://cdc.gov/flu/about>. Accessed 18 June 2014.
3. Influenza Specialist Group. Influenza Vaccination. 2013. Accessed 18 June 2014.



**HANDS-ON INFECTION CONTROL**