

# HANDS-ON INFECTION CONTROL NEWSLETTER AGED CARE

November 2018

SPRING NEWSLETTER

## In This Issue

- AACQA and the new Aged Care Quality Standards
- Gastroenteritis Activity
- Environmental Cleaning
- Antibiotic Awareness Week

## Important Dates

### ACIPC Conference 2018

19–21 November 2018

### Antibiotic Awareness Week 2018

12 – 18 November 2018

## Quick Links

**New Aged Care Quality Standards**

**WHO World Antibiotic Awareness Week**

**Gastro-Info Gastroenteritis Kit for Aged Care**

**WA Health Gastroenteritis in Residential Care Facilities**

**SA Health Gastroenteritis for Health Professionals**

**NSW Health Gastroenteritis in Aged Care Facilities**

**DoH Guidelines for the Public Health Management of Gastroenteritis Outbreaks due to Norovirus or Suspected Viral Agents in Australia**

**PIDAC Environmental Cleaning Best Practices**

**PIDAC Environmental Cleaning Toolkit**

## The New Aged Care Quality Standards

Accreditation is an internationally recognised evaluation process used in many countries to assess the quality of care and services provided in a range of areas such as health care, long term residential aged care, disability services.

In Australia, aged care homes are required to be accredited to receive Australian Government subsidies. The Australian Aged Care Quality Agency (AACQA) have been appointed as the independent accreditation body, and assess homes' performance against a set of legislated Accreditation Standards. This involves periodic full audits, as well as unannounced visits to monitor continuing compliance with standards.

While the accreditation-related processes invariably involve a relationship principally between the accrediting body and the approved provider, aged care accreditation exists for the benefit of aged care consumers – residents/clients, their relatives and representatives.

### Aged Care Quality Standards

The current Aged Care Quality Standards have been reviewed and a new single set of Aged Care Quality Standards will be used for assessment and monitoring from 1 July 2019. The new single set of standards will replace the:

- Accreditation Standards
- Home Care Standards
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program Quality Framework Standards
- Transition Care Standards.

**The new Aged Care Quality Standards will apply to all aged care services including residential care, home care, flexible care and services under the Commonwealth Home Support Program.**

**Standard 3** Personal and Clinical Care requires the minimisation of infection-related risks through the implementation of standard and transmission-based precautions to prevent and control infection, and practices to promote appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use to support optimal care and reduce the risk of increasing resistance to antibiotics.

For more information, please see :

<https://www.aacqa.gov.au/providers/standards/new-standards>



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## Gastroenteritis Activity

**A number of aged care homes are currently experiencing gastro outbreaks.**

You can minimize the risk of an outbreak by:

- **Keeping vigilant:** early detection means early application of management practices to limit the spread
- **Good compliance with standard precautions**
- **Good hand hygiene**

Refer to the *Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Gastro Outbreak Kit*.

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## Antibiotic Awareness Week

World Antibiotic Awareness Week occurs annually in November. It aims to draw attention to the role of effective use of antibiotics in preventing and containing antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Antibiotic Awareness Week is a key initiative to promote the correct use of antibiotics to contribute to the avoidance of further emergence and spread of AMR. AMR is already affecting the care of healthcare consumers now and current trends indicate this will have an increasing impact over time.

### Key Messages for Antibiotic Awareness Week

- Antibiotics are a precious resource that could be lost
- Antibiotic resistance is happening now – it is a worldwide problem that affects human and animal health
- Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria stops an antibiotic from working effectively – meaning some infections may be impossible to treat
- Few new antibiotics are being developed to help solve this problem
- Misuse of antibiotics contributes to antibiotic resistance
- Whenever antibiotics must be used, they must be used with care.

DOWNLOAD RESOURCES FOR ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS WEEK

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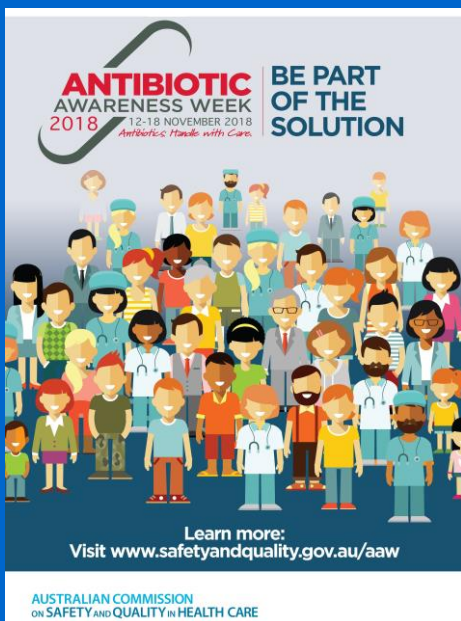
## Environmental Cleaning

The evidence that the environment plays a role in the transmission of microorganisms in the health care setting has increased. There has also been an expansion of the evidence demonstrating that effective cleaning and disinfection reduces this risk.

The Canadians have recently published a very thorough and well referenced Guideline on Environmental Cleaning accessible at

PIDAC Best Practice Documents

They also have an [Environmental Cleaning Toolkit](#)



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