

HANDS-ON INFECTION CONTROL NEWSLETTER DAY HOSPITALS

February 2019

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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Important Dates

World Immunization Awareness Week

24-30 April 2019

World Hand Hygiene Day

5 May 2019

World Sepsis Day

13 September

Antibiotic Awareness Week

11 – 17 November 2019

ACIPC Conference 2019

18–20 November 2019, Perth

Updates

Communicable Diseases

Network Australia (CDNA)

December 2018

Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Healthcare Workers Living with Blood Borne Viruses and Healthcare Workers who Perform Exposure Prone Procedures at Risk of Exposure to Blood Borne Viruses

Quick Links

NSQHS Standards (second edition) | Safety and Quality

Hand Hygiene Australia Learning Modules

<https://www.hha.org.au/online-learning/complete-a-module>

NSQHS Standards 2nd Edition

All Health Service Organisations (HSO) are now measured against the second edition NSQHS effective from 1 January 2019.

Changes to Standard 3 – Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) are:

- 16 actions (19 in 1st edition)
- Continues to focus on:
 - Systems and processes that prevent and control HAI
 - Promotion of effective prescribing and use of antimicrobials as part of AMS
- Actions relating to standard and transmission-based precautions have been brought together; and
- Wording across the standard has been revised to make requirements clearer

Measurement against the standard is made using the **PICMoRs** method:

- Examination of information and data available on the **process**
- Identification of **improvement** strategy applied
- Review of **consumer** participation in the processes
- Determine what ongoing **monitoring** is in place
- Identification of where the information is **reported**
- Examination of how these processes are linked to other safety and quality **systems**

The NSQHS Standards (2nd ed.) and supporting resources are available on the Commission's website at <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/assessment-to-the-nsqhs-standards/nsqhs-standards-second-edition/>.

Healthcare Workers (HCW) Living with Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs) and HCW performing Exposure Prone Procedures (EPPs)

New National Guidelines for the Management of HCW Living with BBVs and HCW who perform EPPs at risk of exposure to BBVs have been released (see link in updates).

Highlights are:

- HCW who perform EPPs must take reasonable steps to know their BBV status and should be tested for BBVs at least once every 3 years
- HCW with a BBV may resume performing EPPs once the criteria set out in the guidelines has been met
- All HCW who undertake EPPs must declare when applying for renewal of registration that they are complying with the guidelines, including testing.

Welcome to our newest team member



Nelly Leon commenced with the Hands-On Team on 1 February in the role of Sterilisation Advisor. She has a background of almost 21 years within WA sterilisation services as a CSSD technician, team leader, supervisor, preceptor, and manager. In this time, Nelly oversaw the refurbishment of a sterilisation department. Her most recent experience was with the transportation of reusable medical devices. Over the years she has demonstrated dedication, passion for excellence and significant achievements in her roles. Nelly will be available to undertake sterilising service risk assessments, education, technician competencies, and provide expert advice/support.

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Hand Hygiene Update

Data from hand hygiene national audit period 3-2018 has been released and is available on the HHA website. Data collection for P1-2019 is now underway and closes 31 March 2019.

Two new learning modules are now available on the HHA website (see Quick Links previous page). The first is specifically designed for **Renal/Dialysis** staff and the second is specifically designed for **Dental** staff. The modules provides examples of when to perform hand hygiene in those specific settings.

Stethoscopes and Bacteria

A study published in *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, found that stethoscopes carried by healthcare practitioners are loaded with diverse bacteria, including some that can cause healthcare-associated infections (HAI). The research also reviewed the effectiveness of cleaning methods, finding a standardised approach to be superior for removing bacteria compared with various approaches employed by healthcare practitioners.

"This study underscores the importance of adhering to rigorous infection control procedures, including fully adhering to CDC-recommended decontamination procedures between patients or using single-patient-use stethoscopes kept in each patient's room," said Dr Ronald Collman, Professor of Medicine, Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and senior author of the study.

Read more: <http://hospitalhealth.com.au/content/clinical-services/news/stethoscopes-loaded-with-bacteria-937867051#ixzz5dD8OYKu8>

Immunisation Resources

The WA Department of Health has released Vaccine Updates 217 – Updated Immunisation Resource Information. Three immunisation resources have been updated to assist immunisation practice:

- 1. New NCIRS website**
This provides an information hub and links to a wide range of resources and websites related to immunisation in Australia and globally.
- 2. AusVaxSafety first ever summary report 16/17**
The first annual report from the national surveillance system summarises information from parents/carers who responded to an SMS about their child's health a few days after receiving a routine scheduled vaccine 2016-17.
- 3. AIHW Vaccine preventable fact sheets**
A series of fact sheets prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare providing information about the 17 vaccine preventable diseases covered by the national immunization program.

INFECTION PREVENTION

THE RESPONSIBILITY IS IN EVERYONES HANDS!



HANDS-ON INFECTION CONTROL