

HANDS-ON INFECTION CONTROL NEWSLETTER AGED CARE

OCTOBER 2019

SPRING NEWSLETTER

In This Issue

- NHMRC revised Australian Guidelines
- Aged Care Quality Standards
- Antibiotic Therapeutic Guidelines 2019
- Healthcare Worker Immunisation
- Shingles vaccination
- Aged Care NAPS
- ACIPC Conference 2019

Important Dates

Antibiotic Awareness Week
11 – 17 November 2019

ACIPC Conference 2019
18–20 November 2019, Perth

Guideline Updates Quick Links

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission newsletter subscription
<https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/subscribe>

VICNISS Fact Sheets for Aged Care Homes
<https://www.vicniss.org.au/resources/infection-control-toolbox/#ac>

Therapeutic Antibiotic Guidelines
<https://www.tg.org.au/>

Aged Care NAPS

Statewide Policy Interim Screening for Multi-Resistant Organisms 17 July 2019

NHMRC Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (2nd Edition)

The Commission and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) released the [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare \(2019\)](#) in May 2019. The revised guidelines use new national and international evidence to strengthen the risk management approach to infection and prevention control established in the 2010 guidelines.

Key elements addressed in the updated guidelines include: the importance of a patient-centred approach, disinfection methods, antimicrobial resistance, replacement of peripheral intravenous catheters, use of chlorhexidine, immunisation for healthcare workers, Norovirus and use of hospital-grade disinfectants.

Aged Care Quality Standards

The new Aged Care Quality Standards commenced on 1 July 2019 and all aged care providers must meet the standards. There are 8 standards:

1. Consumer dignity and choice
2. Ongoing assessment and planning with consumers
3. Personal care and clinical care
4. Services and supports for daily living
5. Organisation's service environment
6. Feedback and complaints
7. Human resources
8. Organisational governance.



The Aged Care Quality Standards clearly define what constitutes good care.

The Aged Care and Quality Commission independently assesses and monitors service provider's performance against the standards. *Meeting the standards (i.e. providing good care) is the responsibility of **all** staff, not just managers and senior staff.*

Infection prevention and control is incorporated into 3 main standards – Personal and clinical care (3), Organisation's service environment (5) and Organisational governance (8).

For information about assessment/accreditation:
<https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/consumers/about-accreditation>

Antibiotic Therapeutic Guidelines 2019

The newly updated guidelines are out now and available in digital format. These guidelines support aged care homes antimicrobial stewardship programs and are an essential resource for clinicians <https://www.tg.org.au/>

Health Care Worker (HCW) Immunisation

All healthcare workers, including all workers and students directly caring for residents, or handling human tissue, blood or body fluids, are recommended to receive vaccines against:

- hepatitis B
- influenza - annually
- MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) - if non-immune.
- pertussis (*dTpa* [diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis]) every 10 years
- varicella (Chickenpox) - if non-immune.

Are your vaccinations up-to-date?

Aged Care NAPS

The official timeframe to enter data has closed. Over 565 aged care homes participated this year, an increase of over 150 homes from 2018. This is a great quality initiative to participate in which supports your facility Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.

If you actively participate in acNAPS, a Urinary Tract Infection Fact Sheet has been developed, outlining some frequently asked question with some useful information for when feeding back results to medical and nurse practitioner prescribers.

Contact Us

Suite 1/120-122 Lake Street

Perth WA 6000

Tel: 61-8-9227 1132

Fax: 61-8-9227 1134

www.handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au

Email:

info@handsoninfectioncontrol.com.au



Shingles Vaccination - Are your resident's protected?

Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox (varicella zoster virus). After your chickenpox blisters heal, the virus that caused them stays in your body in nerve cells. The virus may stay dormant for many years and not cause a problem. In some people though, it may become active again. If this happens, it can cause a blistering and painful rash along a nerve pathway. The blisters can persist for several weeks. Sometimes the nerve pain caused by shingles can be severe and last for months or years. For some people, this nerve pain can get in the way of normal day-to-day activities such as walking, and sleeping.

In addition to severe pain, people with shingles may have other complications. These include:

- scarring
- bacterial skin infections
- weakness
- muscle paralysis.

Shingles vaccination is given as a single dose by subcutaneous injection in the upper arm.

Shingles vaccination boosts your immune system to help protect you from shingles and its complications. It:

- cannot be used to treat existing shingles or the pain associated with existing shingles;
- can reduce the intensity and length of time your pain from shingles will last; and
- can help prevent the long-lasting nerve pain that can follow shingles if you are 70 years of age or older and you get shingles even though you have been vaccinated.

People are **not** suitable for vaccination if they:

- have a blood disorder or any type of cancer that weakens your immune system.
- have been told by their doctor that they have a weakened immune system as a result of a disease, medications, (including high-dose corticosteroids or cancer medicines), or other treatment.

A single dose of shingles vaccine is recommended and funded for adults at 70 years of age. Adults 71-79 years of age are also eligible under a five-year catch up program until 31 October 2021.

VICNISS have published a fact sheet on Prevention and Control of Herpes Zoster in Aged Care Homes which may be a useful resource
<https://www.vicniss.org.au/media/2055/prevention-and-control-of-herpes-zoster-in-aged-care-homes.pdf>

Infection Prevention & Control Conference

The ACIPC Infection Prevention and Control Conference is being held in Perth this year on 18-20 November 2019 at the Perth Convention Centre.

Tuesday 19 November includes a specific Aged Care workshop.

Come and join Yvonne and I.

Program and registration available at:
<http://www.acipconference.com.au/>

