

Infection Control Guidelines for the Medical Technology Industry

Medical company representatives (MCRs) entering health care facilities have the potential to be exposed to a range of transmissible infections and/or diseases, or to act as carriers of such infections. Ensuring MCRs and patients are kept safe when entering a hospital or the perioperative setting is essential for everyone's wellbeing. Infection control management is key to limiting the risks of transmission to or from MCRs.

The principles outlined in these guidelines form the basis for medical technology companies to ensure staff entering health care facilities can manage and minimise their exposure to infectious diseases.

Strategies to Support Infection Control

"The use of standard precautions is essential as the primary strategy for the successful minimisation of transmission of health care associated infection. Staff entering health care facilities should be aware of their requirements for immunisation against infectious diseases and maintain personal immunisation records."¹

Evidence indicates precautions can be taken by those entering health care facilities to ensure minimisation of risk. Medical technology companies are recommended to develop policies and procedures that reduce the risk for staff exposed to these environments as part of their OH&S policies. Company policies should be aligned with and updated according to state-based policies.

Suggested strategies include:

1. training of staff in routine practices including hand-washing, aseptic techniques, protective clothing and personal hygiene (ACORN Standards: Visitors to the Perioperative Environment); and
2. development and implementation of an immunisation strategy including providing access to information on current recommended immunisations as they become available, testing of immune status and maintenance of staff health records.

Immunisation

A number of immunisations are available to manage infection control. Special consideration should also be given to staff who are pregnant or that are coming in contact with pregnant women. The Australian Immunisation Handbook² provides detailed information on immunisation schedules and vaccines.

Recommended Reading

1. ACORN Standards for Perioperative Nursing (ACORN, 2006: S24)
2. Infection Control Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Infectious Diseases in the Health Care Setting (Department of Health and Ageing, January 2004)
3. The Australian Immunisation Handbook (NHMRC, 2003)
4. Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases (NSW Health Policy Directive, February 2007)

Last updated: March 2009

¹ Infection control guidelines for the prevention of transmission of infectious diseases in the health care setting, Department of Health and Ageing, 2008 (5:3)

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/2804E9F9B95357F7CA256F190003B4DA/\\$File/part1.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/2804E9F9B95357F7CA256F190003B4DA/$File/part1.pdf)

² The Australian Immunisation Handbook (NHMRC 2003).