

National Safety and Quality Health Service Standard, Second Edition

Standard 3 Preventing and controlling healthcare-associated infection Standard



SA Health Accreditation Resource to support Health Services



Government of South Australia
SA Health



PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTION STANDARD

Leaders of a health service organisation describe, implement and monitor systems to prevent, manage or control healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, to reduce harm and achieve good health outcomes for patients. The workforce uses these systems.

Criteria

Clinical governance and quality improvement to prevent and control health-care associated infections, and support antimicrobial stewardship

Systems are in place to support and promote prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections, and improve antimicrobial stewardship.

Infection prevention and control systems

Evidence-based systems are used to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections. Patients presenting with, or with risk factors for infection or colonisation with an organism of local, national or global significance are identified promptly, and receive the necessary management and treatment. The health service organisation is clean and hygienic.

Reprocessing of reusable medical devices

Reprocessing of reusable equipment, instruments and devices is consistent with relevant current national standards, and meets current best practice.

Antimicrobial stewardship

The health service organisation implements systems for the safe and appropriate prescribing and use of antimicrobials as part of an antimicrobial stewardship program.

The SA Health Accreditation Resource is designed to be used in addition to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's (ACSQHC) resources when implementing the second edition of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. It contains a combination of resources (policies, guides and tools) developed by SA Health and assists health services in identifying examples of evidence to demonstrate how to meet individual actions.

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These resources are working documents that can be used by health services in their planning for assessment against the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

Further information is available in the Australian Commission in Safety and Quality in Health Care [National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Accreditation Resources](#).



Clinical governance and quality improvement to prevent and control health-care associated infections, and support antimicrobial stewardship

Systems are in place to support and promote prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections, and improve antimicrobial stewardship.

Item	Action required	Examples of Evidence	SA Health Policy / Guideline
<p>3.1 Integrating clinical governance</p>	<p>The workforce uses the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> implementing policies and procedures for healthcare-associated infections, and antimicrobial stewardship managing risks associated with healthcare-associated infections, and antimicrobial stewardship identifying training requirements for preventing and controlling healthcare-associated infections, and antimicrobial stewardship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Health Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) website contains links to all current documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/infectionprevention SA Health Antimicrobial stewardship page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/antimicrobials Antimicrobial stewardship – key components page e-Learning modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infection Control Aseptic technique Safe use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Antimicrobial modules (developed by National Prescribing Service (NPS) and ACSQHC) Standard 3 preventing and controlling healthcare associated infection audit tools Staff Fact Sheet on Respiratory Fit Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P2/N95 Respirator Fit Testing Fact Sheet Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Immediate Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management Training Tool for Correct Use of Personal Protective Equipment and Respiratory Mask Fit Testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Policy Directive Antimicrobial Stewardship Policy Directive Antimicrobial Prescribing Clinical Guideline Preventing and Responding to Work Related Exposure to Infectious Diseases Policy Guideline Worker Health, Wellbeing and Fitness for Work Policy Directive Hazard Identification and Risk Management Policy Directive
<p>3.2 Applying quality improvement systems</p>	<p>The health service organisation applies the quality improvement system in the Clinical Governance Standard when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> monitoring the performance of systems for prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections and the effectiveness of the antimicrobial stewardship program implementing strategies to improve outcomes and associated processes of systems for prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections, and antimicrobial stewardship reporting on the outcomes of prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections, and the antimicrobial stewardship program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Infection Reference Group SA Network of Infection Control Teams (SANIT) SA expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (SAAGAR) SA Health Reprocessing of Medical Devices Committee Non acute Infection Control Special Interest Group Monitoring of HAI incidence (see surveillance section 3.4) Tool kit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMS Self-evaluation tool kit – sections 1 and 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Policy Directive Antimicrobial Stewardship Policy Directive Patient Incident Management and Open Disclosure Policy Directive



Item	Action required	Examples of Evidence	SA Health Policy / Guideline
<p>3.3 Partnering with Consumers</p>	<p>Clinicians use organisational processes from the Partnering with Consumers Standard when preventing and managing healthcare-associated infections and implementing the antimicrobial stewardship program to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> actively involve patients in their own care meet the patient's information needs share decision making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer fact sheets for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRSA VRE MRGN Clostridium difficile Cystic fibrosis M chimaera in heater-cooler units Antibiotics used in hospitals Other infectious diseases Post-splenectomy treatment (see Splenectomy Vaccination and Antimicrobial Prophylaxis Clinical Guideline) 	<p>Framework for Active Partnership with Consumers and the Community Policy Directive</p> <p>The following consumer resources are available from the SA Health Partnering with Consumers webpage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Health Guide for Engaging with Consumers and the Community SA Health Guide for Engaging with Aboriginal People Consumer information on respecting your privacy and dignity with patient centred care principles Staff information on respecting your privacy and dignity with patient centred care principles SA Health Partnering with Carers Strategic Action Plan 2017-2020 SA Health Partnering with Carers Key Priorities <p>SA Health Partnering with Carers Policy Directive</p>
<p>3.4 Surveillance</p>	<p>The health service organisation has a surveillance strategy for healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> collects data on healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use relevant to the size and scope of the organisation monitors, assesses and uses surveillance data to reduce the risks associated with healthcare-associated infections and support appropriate antimicrobial prescribing reports surveillance data on healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use to the workforce, the governing body, consumers and other relevant groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HAI surveillance reports NAUSP surveillance reports Quality, Information and Performance Hub (QIP Hub) National reporting of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> bacteraemia (SAB) rates to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and MyHospitals SANIT Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Surveillance sub committee Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance Contributor Manual Safety Learning System and Open Disclosure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Surveillance Policy Directive Antimicrobial Stewardship Policy Directive

Comments



Infection prevention and control systems

Evidence-based systems are used to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections. Patients presenting with, or with risk factors for infection or colonisation with an organism of local, national or global significance are identified promptly, and receive the necessary management and treatment. The health service organisation is clean and hygienic.

Item	Action required	Examples of Evidence	SA Health Policy / Guideline
3.5 Standard and transmission-based precautions	<p>The health service organisation has processes to apply standard and transmission-based precautions that are consistent with the current edition of the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare, and jurisdictional requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRSA IC management guidelines • VRE IC management guidelines • MRGN IC management guidelines • Standard 3 preventing and controlling healthcare associated infection audit tools 	<p>Respiratory Protection against Airborne Infectious Diseases Clinical Guideline</p> <p>Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Selection Policy Guideline</p>
3.6 Standard and transmission-based precautions	<p>Clinicians assess infection risks and use transmission-based precautions based on the risk of transmission of infectious agents, and consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> patients' risks, which are evaluated at referral, on admission or on presentation for care, and re-evaluated when clinically required during care whether a patient has a communicable disease, existing or pre-existing colonisation or infection with organisms of local or national significance accommodation needs to manage infection risks the need to control the environment precautions required when the patient is moved within the facility or to external services the need for additional environmental cleaning or disinfection equipment requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic patient alerts on the statewide infection control information management system (ICIMS) • SA Health table of Infectious Diseases • Bed management toolkit for infectious diseases and MROs • Influenza resources and links for health professionals • Meningococcal disease (invasive) for health professionals • Notifiable disease reporting • Standard 3 preventing and controlling healthcare associated infection audit tools 	<p>Environmental Management in Health Care Facilities Policy Directive</p> <p>Cleaning Standard for Healthcare Facilities Policy Directive</p> <p>Cystic Fibrosis: Infection Prevention and Control Clinical Guideline</p> <p>Guidelines for the Management of Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Residential Environments in South Australia</p> <p>Guidelines for Influenza Outbreak Prevention and Management in Residential Care Facilities in South Australia</p>
3.7 Standard and transmission-based precautions	<p>The health service organisation has processes for communicating relevant details of a patient's infectious status whenever responsibility for care is transferred between clinicians or health service organisations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic patient alerts on the state wide infection control information management system (ICIMS) • Patient Alert status included in automated Discharge Summary documentation • Standard 3 preventing and controlling healthcare associated infection audit tools • Communicating for safety • Clinical Handover 	<p>Clinical Handover Policy Directive</p> <p>Clinical Handover Guidelines</p>



Item	Action required	Examples of Evidence	SA Health Policy / Guideline
3.8 Hand hygiene	The health service organisation has a hand hygiene program that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> is consistent with the current National Hand Hygiene initiative and jurisdictional requirements addresses noncompliance or inconsistency with the current National Hand Hygiene initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All public hospitals >25 beds contribute compliance data to the Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) program. http://www.hha.org.au Quality, Information and Performance Hub (QIP Hub) National reporting of Hand Hygiene compliance to MyHospitals Hand Hygiene competency assessment tools Standard 3 preventing and controlling healthcare associated infection audit tools 	Hand Hygiene Policy Directive Hand Hygiene Clinical Guideline
3.9 Aseptic technique	The health service organisation has processes for aseptic technique that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> identify the procedures where aseptic technique applies assess the competence of the workforce in performing aseptic technique provide training to address gaps in competency monitor compliance with the organisation's policies on aseptic technique. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e-Learning module on Aseptic technique Aseptic technique training & competency assessment workbook 	Aseptic Technique Policy Directive
3.10 Invasive medical devices	The health service organisation has processes for the appropriate use and management of invasive medical devices that are consistent with the current edition of the <i>Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Health Indwelling medical device management Standard 3 preventing and controlling healthcare associated infection audit tools 	Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) Dressing Management Clinical Guideline
3.11 Clean environment	The health service organisation has processes to maintain a clean and hygienic environment – in line with the current edition of the <i>Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare</i> , and jurisdictional requirements that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> respond to environmental risks require cleaning and disinfection in line with recommended cleaning frequencies include training in the appropriate use of specialised personal protective equipment for the workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning standard for healthcare facilities (document and appendices) Training tool for the correct use of PPE and respiratory mask fit testing Environmental hygiene in healthcare resources Standard 3 preventing and controlling healthcare associated infection audit tools 	Cleaning Standard for Healthcare Facilities Policy Directive Microbiological Testing of Endoscopes Clinical Guideline Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Selection Guideline Environmental Management in Healthcare Facilities Policy Directive



Item	Action required	Examples of Evidence	SA Health Policy / Guideline
<p>3.12</p> <p>Clean environment</p>	<p>The health service organisation has processes to evaluate and respond to infection risks for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> new and existing equipment, devices and products used in the organisation maintaining, repairing and upgrading buildings, equipment, furnishings and fittings handling, transporting and storing linen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infection Control representative on the SA Health Product Standardisation Sub-committee All new products are reviewed and assessed for IC risk through this committee Participation in relevant tender evaluations Procurement and Supply Chain Management resources Construction and Renovation at Existing Healthcare Facilities toolkit 	<p>Environmental Management in Healthcare Facilities Policy Directive</p> <p>Construction and Renovation at Existing Healthcare Facilities: Infection Prevention and Control Policy Guideline</p>
<p>3.13</p> <p>Workforce immunisation</p>	<p>The health service organisation has a risk-based workforce immunisation program that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> is consistent with the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i> is consistent with jurisdictional requirements for vaccine-preventable diseases addresses specific risks to the workforce and patients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Health Immunisation Section has training for immunisation providers. Immunisation Resources Resources for staff on how to protect themselves from (and prevent the spread of) infections, are available on the SA Health Staff protection from infections web page SA Health provides a suite of resources outlining Health Care Worker immunisation requirements and supporting implementation of a Health Care Worker immunisation program. SA Health provides occupation-specific information consistent with best practice recommendations (as per the Immunisation Handbook) for its health care and other workers SA Health provides specific information for staff on seasonal influenza and offers a free annual influenza program for its health care and other workers HIV post exposure prophylaxis information for health professionals 	<p>Healthcare Worker Immunisation Policy Directive</p> <p>Preventing and Responding to Work Related Exposure to Infectious Diseases Clinical Guideline</p> <p>Worker Health, Wellbeing and Fitness for Work Policy Directive</p>

Comments



Reprocessing of reusable medical devices

Reprocessing of reusable equipment, instruments and devices is consistent with relevant current national standards, and meets current best practice.

Item	Action required	Examples of Evidence	SA Health Policy / Guideline
3.14 Reprocessing of reusable devices	Where reusable equipment, instruments and devices are used, the health service organisation has: a. processes for reprocessing that are consistent with relevant national and international standards, in conjunction with manufacturers' guidelines b. a traceability process for critical and semi-critical equipment, instruments and devices that is capable of identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the patient• the procedure• the reusable equipment, instruments and devices that were used for the procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices Committee• Resources available at SA Health Reprocessing of medical devices• Single use medical devices factsheet• Standard 3 preventing and controlling healthcare associated infection audit tools	Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices Policy Directive

Comments



Antimicrobial stewardship

The health service organisation implements systems for the safe and appropriate prescribing and use of antimicrobials as part of an antimicrobial stewardship program.

Item	Action required	Examples of Evidence	SA Health Policy / Guideline
3.15 Antimicrobial stewardship	The health service organisation has an antimicrobial stewardship program that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> includes an antimicrobial stewardship policy provides access to, and promotes the use of, current evidence-based Australian therapeutic guidelines and resources on antimicrobial prescribing has an antimicrobial formulary that includes restriction rules and approval processes incorporates core elements, recommendations and principles from the current Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A suite of antimicrobial guidelines developed by SAAGAR for use in SA public hospitals are available from the Antimicrobial Guidelines page. Resources are available on the SA Health Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) and Antimicrobial stewardship – key components web pages. SA Health formulary including antibiotic restrictions is available on the South Australian Medicine Formulary web page. 	Antimicrobial Stewardship Policy Directive Antimicrobial Prescribing Clinical Guideline
3.16 Antimicrobial stewardship	The antimicrobial stewardship program will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> review antimicrobial prescribing and use use surveillance data on antimicrobial resistance and use to support appropriate prescribing evaluate performance of the program, identify areas for improvement, and take action to improve the appropriateness of antimicrobial prescribing and use report to clinicians and the governing body regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compliance with the antimicrobial stewardship policy antimicrobial use and resistance appropriateness of prescribing and compliance with current evidence-based Australian therapeutic guidelines or resources on antimicrobial prescribing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All metropolitan and larger country hospitals contribute data on usage to National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program (NAUSP) SA Health AMS self-evaluation toolkit Governance through the SA expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (SAAGAR) SAAGAR Terms of Reference CARALERT reports (limited access only) Surveillance of appropriateness of prescribing conducted through the National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS) or local audits 	Usage surveillance is through the National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program (NAUSP), with information and resources available at National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program (NAUSP)

Comments



Useful links

[SA Health Library Service \(SALUS\)](#) – access to various relevant standards, journals and guidelines.

Antimicrobial stewardship

- ACSQHC Antimicrobial Stewardship Initiative available from <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/healthcare-associated-infection/antimicrobial-stewardship/>
- ACSQHC Antimicrobial prescribing online modules available from <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/healthcare-associated-infection/antimicrobial-stewardship/antimicrobial-prescribing-online-modules/>
- Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care 2018 available from <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/healthcare-associated-infection/antimicrobial-stewardship/book/>
- Antimicrobial Stewardship Video Presentations available from <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/healthcare-associated-infection/antimicrobial-stewardship/antibiotic-awareness-week/antimicrobial-stewardship-video-presentations/>

Infection Control

- [Communicable Disease Network Australia Guidelines for the prevention, control and public health management of influenza outbreaks in residential care facilities in Australia](#)
- [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in healthcare](#)
- National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards:
 - <http://www.nationalstandards.safetyandquality.gov.au/>
 - <http://www.nationalstandards.safetyandquality.gov.au/3.-healthcare-associated-infection>
 - <http://nationalstandards.safetyandquality.gov.au/resources>
- [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare \(2010\)](#)
- [MyHospital](#)
- [Australian national guidelines for the management of healthcare workers known to be infected with blood-borne viruses](#)
- [GENCA guidelines and position statements for infection control in endoscopy](#)
- [Australasian health facility guidelines](#)

Reprocessing of Reusable Devices

- SAHLN AS/NZS 4187:2014 Audit Tool Contact Nurse Manager SALHN Sterilisation Services
- NSW Clinical Excellence Commission AS/NZS 4187:2014 Audit tools for CSSD and Endoscopy <http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/assurance-governance/healthcare-associated-infections/sterilization-of-medical-equipment>
- [Queensland Government, CHRISP Endoscope reprocessing training modules](#)

Immunisation

- [The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)
- [SA Health Immunisation for health professionals](#)

For more information

Safety and Quality Unit
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