



# Infection Prevention and Control Policy

## 1. Background

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) has systems in place that support and promote prevention and control of healthcare associated infections using a risk management process. This is achieved by the application of:

- a) clinical governance and quality improvement
- b) standard and transmission based precautions
- c) hand hygiene practices incorporating the National Hand Hygiene Initiative
- d) surveillance strategies for healthcare associated infections
- e) Anti-microbial Stewardship Program (AMS)
- f) Aseptic Technique program
- g) monitoring use of invasive medical devices
- h) maintenance of a clean environment
- i) reprocessing of reusable medical devices
- j) partnering with consumers
- k) risk based workforce immunisation program.

## 2. Policy Statement

This policy applies to all employees, students, contractors, volunteers, visitors and carers within the WACHS.

### 2.1 WA Country Health Service

WACHS complies with current Western Australian legislation and external guidelines as per WACHS policy:

- [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare \(2019\) NHMRC](#)
- [National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#): Standard 3 Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection
- Australasian College of Infection Prevention & Control current position statements
- ACORN Standards
- GENCA Guideline for infection Control in Endoscopy
- Australian New Zealand Standard 4187 - Reprocessing of reusable medical devices in health service organisations
- Relevant State Legislation
- [WA Health Mandatory Policies](#) and current Operational Directives

**2.2 Key components of infection prevention and control practices across all sites as per the [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare \(2019\)](#) include the following:**

- standard precautions are followed at all times – section 3.1, p 29
- transmission-based Precautions are implemented as required – section 3.2, p 96
- reuse of single use items **does not** occur
- WA Hand Hygiene Program - education, auditing, and reporting of results, consistent with the current National Hand Hygiene Initiative
- [Aseptic Technique Clinical Practice Framework](#) including education, auditing, reporting, and related action plans
- provision of appropriate personal protective equipment to employees, volunteers, visitors and carers at risk of exposure to infectious agents – section 2.3.1, p26
- Management of Disease-Specific Isolation – section 6.4, p 258
- Management of Multi-Resistant Organisms (MRO) – section 3.4, p135
- Management of Outbreaks – section 4.2, p 148
- [Infection Prevention and Control of Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci \(VRE\) in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease \(CJD\)](#) :
- [MP0108/19 Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance in Western Australia Policy](#)
- safe processes for management of laundry, waste and sharps disposal
- pre-employment screening and vaccine programs as required (e.g. Vaccine Preventable Diseases, MRSA)
- WACHS [Animals in Health Care Settings Policy](#)
- consultation and participation in all health care renovations and constructions from planning stage through to completion (see [Australian Health Facility Guidelines Part D](#))
- WACHS [Environmental Cleaning Policy](#)
- [Notifiable disease reporting](#)
- Infection Prevention and Control WACHS (online) and local orientation
- eLearning requirements as per WACHS [Workforce Learning and Development Policy](#) - Appendix A – Learning Framework
- Sterilisation and reprocessing referenced to:
  - I. Australian Standards
  - II. State legislation
  - III. Codes of practice
  - IV. Industry guidelines.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

All WACHS sites are to ensure:

- the appointment of appropriately qualified staff and resources are available to implement and maintain the IPC policy
- orientation for employees, students, contractors, volunteers, visitors and carers s include information and specific education on IPC principles, policies and procedures
- service plans include IPC risk management strategies
- effective work practices including standard and transmission-based precautions that prevent the transmission of infectious agents
- Identification, management and reporting of incidents, hazards, and accidents related to IPC issues.

### Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Employment Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (HSA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

Compliance with all policies is mandatory for all WACHS staff

### 4. Evaluation

Annual monitoring and evaluation of infection prevention and control systems in place based on the regional resources and risk management strategies using the quality cycle shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- Audits should include adherence to Standard Precautions, Aseptic Technique, hand hygiene, waste management processes, cleaning protocols, sterilising services, compliance with health screening (e.g. immunisation), and environmental potable water testing.
- Process indicator audits of clinical practice e.g. peripheral vascular device and central line insertion procedure
- Outcome indicators for health-care associated infections (clinical Indicators) e.g. surgical site infections (SSI), Multi-resistant organism monitoring (e.g. MRSA, VRE), occupational exposure to blood and body fluids.

The WACHS Infection Control Advisory Forum (ICAF) will review this policy every two (2) years, or earlier if required.

## 5. Standards

[National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#)  
Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-associated Infection Standard 3

## 6. References

[Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare \(2019\) | NHMRC](#)  
[MP0108/19 Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance in Western Australia Policy](#)  
Australian Commission of Safety and Quality in Healthcare  
[ACIPC Position Statements – ACIPC](#)  
[Part D: Infection Prevention and Control | AusHFG](#)  
Australian Health Facility Guidelines  
[Western Australian Public Health website](#)

## 7. Related WA Health System Policies

[WA Health Hand Hygiene](#)  
[OD0646/16 Infection Prevention and Control of Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci \(VRE\) in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities](#)  
[OD0456/13 Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease \(CJD\) Risk Assessment and Management](#)

## 8. WA Health Policy Framework

[Public Health Policy Framework](#)

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<b>Version:</b>	7.00	<b>Date Published:</b>	26 July 2019

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