



Infection Control

Purpose

To outline the principles of prevention and control of infectious disease transmission and healthcare associated infections at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).

Scope

All RCH Staff

Definition of terms

Health care associated infections - infections acquired in health care establishments which occur as a result of health care interventions.

Policy

RCH is committed to minimising the risk of health care associated infections and the spread of infectious diseases.

RCH will ensure infection control systems and governance structures are in place. These systems will integrate and work together to minimise potential risks including the identification, evaluation, prevention and management of infection control issues which may adversely affect patient and staff outcomes.

Evaluation and auditing of infection control practices and reporting to the relevant internal and external bodies will be undertaken. The specific areas and procedures that undergo education will vary depending on current needs and identified infection risks.

The key priority areas are:

- Education and training of staff in the application of standard and additional precautions and use of personal protective equipment
- Appropriate use of isolation facilities and appropriate cohorting of infectious patients
- Environmental surveillance where appropriate to provide a safe physical environment for patients, staff, volunteers and visitors
- Protection of health care workers, volunteers and visitors, including management of blood and body fluid exposures and provision of a staff immunisation program.
- Monitoring infection control practice
- Surveillance for infections, Healthcare associated infections and Multi-resistant Organisms (MRO) and assisting staff with appropriate intervention.
- Appropriate benchmarking

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- Ensure that infection control issues are addressed in planning and design of renovations and new works
- Management commitment, leadership and accountability for infection control issues

This policy applies to all persons on site at RCH including all staff, contractors, patients, their families, visitors, contractors, and volunteers.

Authorisation by

Executive Director - Nursing Services

Disciplinary action may be taken against employees who breach this policy.

Related procedures

[Infection Control Procedures](#)

Related policies

- [Quality and Improvement](#)
- [Risk Management](#)

Related legislation

- [Health Act 1958 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Health \(Infectious Diseases\) Regulations 2001 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007 \(Vic\)](#)

References

1. [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare](#). Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health care 2010
2. [The Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th Edition \(2008\)](#) National Health and Medical Research Council, Canberra, Commonwealth of Australia
3. [AS/NZS 4187:2003 : Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of associated environments in health care facilities](#) Standards Australia
4. Standards of Practice for the Victorian Infection Control Professional Victorian Infection Control Professionals Association (VICPA)
5. [Guidelines on Division 2A, Part 6 of the Health Act 1958 The Compulsory Testing Provisions October \(2005\)](#) The Department of Health (Public Health), Victorian Government

Further information

- [Infection Control Department](#)
- Support Services
- [Occupational Health and Safety](#)
- CSSD

Vision

This policy and associated procedures are integral to the RCH achieving its vision of being a 'GREAT children's hospital, leading the way.'

Values

- **Unity**
We work as a team and in partnership with our communities.
- **Respect**
We respect the rights of all and treat people the way we would like them to treat us.
- **Integrity**
We believe that how we work is as important as the work we do.
- **Excellence**
We are committed to achieving our goals and improving outcomes.

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