



The Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control Guide

A supplementary resource for the **Australian
Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of
Infection in Healthcare** for aged care settings

Appendices

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

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Appendix 1: Australian Standards relating to IPC

Standard	Australian/International Standard
Sharps management	AS 23907:2023 Sharps injury protection – Requirements and test methods – Sharps containers (ISO 23907-2:2019, MOD) AS 3825:2020 Procedures and devices for the removal, containment and disposal of scalpel blades from scalpel handles
Risk management	AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management – Guidelines
Ventilation	AS 1324.1-2001 Air filters for use in general ventilation and airconditioning, Part 1: Application, performance and construction AS 1324.2-2003 Air filters for use in general ventilation and airconditioning, Part 2: Methods of test AS 1668.2:2024 The use of ventilation and air-conditioning in buildings, Part 2: Mechanical ventilation in buildings AS 1668.4:2024 The use of ventilation and air-conditioning in buildings, Part 4: Natural ventilation of buildings AS 4260-1997 High efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters – Classification, construction and performance (Reconfirmed 2018)
PPE	AS 4381:2015 Single-use face masks for use in health care AS/NZS 1337.6:2012 Personal eye protection, Part 6: Prescription eye protectors against low and medium impact AS/NZS 1715:2009 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment AS/NZS 1715:2009 RUL 1:2023 Ruling to AS/NZS 1715:2009 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment AS/NZS 1716:2012 Respiratory protective devices
Linen management	AS/NZS 4146:2000 Laundry Practice
Cleaning	AS 5369:2023 Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities AS/NZS 3733:2018 Textile floor coverings – Cleaning maintenance of residential and commercial carpeting
Waste management	AS 3816:2018 Management of clinical and related wastes

AS = Australian Standard; AS/NZS = Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard; IPC = infection prevention and control; ISO = International Standard

Appendix 2: Apply and adapt the five principles of aseptic technique to the unique challenges of home and community settings

Principles	Considerations in the home environment
Planning the clinical procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always conduct an environmental risk assessment first to determine if it is safe to perform the procedure • Using the risks identified in the environmental risk assessment, identify the safest space to perform the procedure in the home • Prepare the space where the procedure will occur – for example, ensure there is a flat surface and wipe down surfaces with a neutral detergent wipe • Check that equipment is intact and in-date before attending the visit, if possible – if equipment is kept in the older person’s home, always check the equipment before starting the procedure • Check how to dispose of waste appropriately according to the local area
Reduce environmental risks	<p>Perform the procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a hard, flat surface (such as a table or chair) so that the area can be easily cleaned • In a quiet room where there will be minimal disruptions, away from pets or other people • Away from turbulent airflow; this can be done by closing windows, reducing foot traffic, and turning off fans • Away from food/drinks and chemicals/cleaning supplies
Hand hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged care organisations should always ensure workers have access to alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR). The environmental risk assessment should identify whether hand washing facilities are appropriate to use (consider access to clean water, paper towels and soap)
Maintaining a clean workspace	<p>Aged care workers should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the space where the clinical procedure will occur is as clean as possible • Use a sterile dressing pack to establish the workspace (aseptic field) and reduce the risk of interruptions (consider interference from the older person, open windows, pets or other environmental factors) • Use the most suitable technique for the procedure – for example, a non-touch technique or sterile gloves
Access to appropriate equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aged care worker should consider the equipment (including PPE) required to protect the older person, the workspace and themselves during the clinical procedure • Aged care organisations should make sure aged care workers have access to the appropriate equipment – see IPC kit for home and community aged care organisations in Chapter 4

IPC = infection prevention and control; PPE = personal protective equipment

Appendix 3: IPC resources for training and education

Topic	Resources
Clinical governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged Care Act (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Aged Care Quality Standards (ACQSC) • Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (ACSQHC) • Clinical Educators Guide for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare (ACSQHC) • Hierarchy of controls in infection prevention and control (ACSQHC) • Infection prevention and control workbook (ACSQHC) • National Hand Hygiene Initiative Learning Management System hand hygiene and infection prevention and control modules (ACSQHC) • Support for the implementation of the Preventing and Controlling Infections Standards (ACSQHC) • Aged Care Learning Information Solution (Alis) online learning – Education and training for aged workers and providers to better understand their obligations and provide safe, high-quality care (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Effective incident management systems: best practice guidance (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Governing for Reform in Aged Care Program (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • IPC governance and operation self-assessment checklists (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • IPC Online Tool (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Supporting visitors and partners in care with IPC (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission)
Education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control Training Tool (ACSQHC) • Hand Hygiene presentation (ACSQHC) • Infection Prevention and Control Week – Crossword (ACSQHC) • Infection Prevention and Control Week 2023 – Presentation – Basics of infection prevention and control (ACSQHC) • Infection Prevention and Control Week – Quiz questions and answers (ACSQHC)
Antimicrobial stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMS Book – Chapter 16 – Antimicrobial stewardship in community and residential aged care (ACSQHC) • Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard – Clinician fact sheet (ACSQHC) • Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard – Consumer Guide (ACSQHC) • Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard – Indicator Monitoring Tool (ACSQHC) • Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care (ACSQHC)

Topic	Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info for consumers – Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard (ACSQHC) • AMS clinician/provider resources (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • AMS consumer resources (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS)
Aseptic technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aseptic technique (ACSQHC) • NSQHS Standards Implementation guide for Action 3.11 Aseptic Technique (ACSQHC) • Principles of aseptic technique: Information for healthcare workers (ACSQHC)
Invasive devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer guide: Management of Peripheral Intravenous Catheters Clinical Care Standard (ACSQHC) • Management of Peripheral Intravenous Catheters Clinical Care Standard (2021) (ACSQHC)
IPC leads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDNA Series of National Guidelines (SoNGs) (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Infection Prevention and Control Leads (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (ACSQHC) • Infection prevention and control in aged care (ACSQHC) • Infection prevention & control (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Infection prevention and control in aged care: cognitive decline and dementia (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Infection Prevention and Control Leads: updates for providers (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Risk Management (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission)
Hand hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene eLearning modules – NHHI (ACSQHC) • Hand hygiene factsheet for patients and carers (ACSQHC) • The 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene in aged care – fact sheet (ACSQHC) • The 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene in aged care – poster (ACSQHC)
Transmission of infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact Sheets – Influenza Kit for Residential Aged Care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Handbook – Influenza Kit for Home Care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Information Sheets – Gastroenteritis Kit for Aged Care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Information Sheets – Influenza Kit for Home Care (Department of Health and Aged Care)

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Topic	Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Sheets – Influenza Kit for Residential Aged Care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Managing infectious diseases in aged care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Poster – Gastroenteritis Kit for Aged Care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Poster – Influenza Kit for Home Care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Poster – Influenza Kit for Residential Aged Care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Standard and transmission-based precaution posters (ACSQHC)
Immunisation and disease screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunisations for health care workers (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Information for aged care providers, workers and residents about COVID-19 vaccines (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Mandatory flu vaccination program (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Infection prevention and control resources for consumers (ACSQHC) • NSQHS Standards Workforce Immunisation Risk Matrix (ACSQHC) • Vaccination for people at occupational risk (<i>The Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>)
Cleaning practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronavirus (COVID-19) environmental cleaning and disinfection principles for health and residential aged care homes (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Environmental cleaning and infection prevention and control resources (ACSQHC) • Reprocessing of reusable equipment and devices (ACSQHC) • Safe management and use of shared toys and therapy equipment in the healthcare settings (ACSQHC) • Therapeutic Goods Administration’s Guidance on the regulation of listed disinfectants in Australia (Therapeutic Goods Administration)
Outbreak management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Guidelines for the Prevention, Control and Public Health Management of Outbreaks of Acute Respiratory Infection in Residential Aged Care Homes (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Outbreak Coordinator’s Handbook – Gastroenteritis Kit for Aged Care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Dealing with infectious outbreaks (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission)
Risk assessment and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk communication module (ACSQHC) • Use of the hierarchy of controls in infection prevention and control – factsheet (ACSQHC) • Effective incident management systems: best practice guidance (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission)

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Topic	Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and safety in home services – 5 key areas of risk: guidance for governing bodies of home service organisations (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Managing risks (Safe Work Australia) • A guide to working safely in people’s homes (Queensland Health)
Standard and transmission-based precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 advice for the health sector (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Donning and doffing personal protective equipment in residential aged care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers in the context of COVID-19 (Department of Health and Aged Care) • How to wear a mask (Department of Health and Aged Care) • COVID-19 and face masks – Information for consumers (ACSQHC) • Infection prevention and control workbook (ACSQHC) • Optimising ventilation for infection prevention and control in healthcare settings (ACSQHC) • Standard and transmission-based precautions posters (ACSQHC) • Use of standard and transmission-based precautions (ACSQHC) • Additional information for providers on requirements for influenza and infection control (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Infection prevention and control in the context of COVID-19: a guideline (World Health Organization)
Consumer resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to wear a mask (Department of Health and Aged Care) • Prevent and prepare for COVID-19 in residential aged care (Department of Health and Aged Care) • COVID-19 and face masks – Information for consumers (ACSQHC) • Hand hygiene factsheet for children and carers (ACSQHC) • Hand hygiene factsheet for patients and carers (ACSQHC) • Hand hygiene: cleaning hands with sanitiser – a video for partners in care (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Hand hygiene: washing hands with soap – a video for partners in care (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Information and resources for the safe management of visitor access (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Partnerships in care – Partner information package (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission) • Sector Code for Visiting in Aged Care Homes (Council of the Aging)

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Topic	Resources
Safe food handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Food Australia – A guide to the Food Safety Standards (Food Standards Australia & New Zealand) • NSW Food Authority • Food safety (Department of Health, Victoria) • Food safety regulation (Queensland Government) • Food safety (SA Health) • Food (Department of Health, Western Australia) • Food safety (Department of Health, Tasmania) • Food safety and regulations (Northern Territory Government) • Food safety for businesses (ACT Government)

AMS = antimicrobial stewardship; CDNA = Communicable Diseases Network Australia; ICEG = Infection Prevention and Control Expert Group; IPC = infection prevention and control; NHHI = National Hand Hygiene Initiative; NSQHS = National Safety and Quality Health Service; PPE = personal protective equipment

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