

The National Hand Hygiene Initiative Newsletter

Hand Hygiene Australia Update

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Hand Hygiene Australia Manual

The first edition of the Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) Manual was released in July and is available on our website. The completion of the final version of the HHA Manual follows the release of the final version of the WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Healthcare document in May 2009.

Any feedback on the manual is welcome can be made via the 'Contact Us' page on our website. The manual will undergo a full review in 2010.

Compliance Data

The Second data period or 2009 finished in August, and data was submitted by over 160 public and private hospitals across Australia. This number will continue to rise rapidly as increased numbers of hospital begin measuring compliance using the 5 Moments tool following attendance at the training workshops. The next data collection period ends on the 27th November 2009. Dates for data submission in 2010 are on the website.

Workshops

Frequent workshops continue to be conducted in all jurisdictions, and there are workshops almost weekly from now until mid December. Plans for ongoing workshops in 2010 are now underway. A full schedule of upcoming

workshops for 2010 will be posted on our website.

Private Sector

The Hand Hygiene Australia team have been very busy conducting workshops for the private sector. During June to September seven workshops were held in three states, with a total of 95 healthcare workers representing fifty six facilities attended. Several other workshops are planned for the rest of 2009. A schedule of upcoming workshops is on our website on the 'Workshop Online Booking' page under 'Workshops'.

Website statistics

Latest data from the website indicates that is a frequently referred to resource.

Data for 3/11/08 – 22/09/09

Visits	75,365
Page views	1.3 million
Average time on the site	10.16 minutes

Analysis of the website data demonstrates that visitors from one hundred and twenty five different countries have accessed the website.

HHA 5 Moments Screen Saver

A new Screen Saver that moves through the 5 Moments is now available to be downloaded from our website. The Aussie 5 Moments Screen Saver is on the right side of the Home page. Please follow the installation instructions that are located just beneath the screen saver file.

Hand Hygiene Australia at the Country Campaigns meeting, World Health Organisation Geneva

Representing Australia as a lead nation, Professor Lindsay Grayson and Phil Russo presented to the First Global Patient Safety Challenge Campaigning Countries Technical meeting at the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva on 24–25 August. The meeting was attended by representatives from over 45 countries who have committed to participate in Save Lives: Clean Your Hands.

The presentation, on the impact of hand hygiene on healthcare associated infections, stimulated discussion on hand hygiene campaigns at a national and sub-national level.

Australia's National Hand Hygiene Initiative was noted by WHO to be well advanced and a model for other countries, and received much praise from meeting delegates.

More information about the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care can be found on our website:
www.safetyandquality.gov.au

\$500,000 awarded to evaluate the National Hand Hygiene Initiative

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is pleased to congratulate Associate Professor Nicholas Graves, QUT, who has been awarded a \$500,000 NHMRC *Partnerships for Better Health Grant* to evaluate the impact of the National Hand Hygiene Initiative on reducing healthcare-associated infections in public hospitals.

Reducing healthcare associated infection is a key program of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission).

The Grant awarded to Professor Graves will enable the evaluation of the hospital based intervention to improve hand hygiene compliance among Australian healthcare workers and reduce healthcare associated infection in hospitals.

It will be undertaken through a partnership between the Commission, Queensland Health, Hand Hygiene Australia and researchers from Queensland University of Technology and the University of Queensland. The Health Departments of Tasmania, Queensland, Victoria, Northern Territory, and Western Australia will also partner the research.

Objectives of the project include:

- Describe current infection control resources in Australian hospitals and the case-mix of patients treated
- Assess the level of knowledge about hand hygiene and infection among healthcare workers
- Examine the role of the organisational safety climate in determining hand hygiene compliance
- Describe the outcomes of hand hygiene compliance and rates of healthcare associated *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia

- Evaluate the total economic cost of implementing the National Hand Hygiene Initiative in Australian public hospitals
- Estimate excess length of stay in hospital due to healthcare associated *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia

This work is an excellent opportunity to gather data to evaluate the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the national initiative. The information gathered will inform the delivery, organisation and funding of initiatives and services targeting the issue of healthcare associated infection in Australian hospitals.

For further information, please contact Dr Marilyn Cruickshank, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, on (02) 9263 3633

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