

Possible Actions/Controls to Manage/Eliminate/Reduce the Risks**Risk 1: Cross-infection due to poor compliance with handwashing**

- ↳ Increase the number of handwashing sinks
- ↳ Introduce alcoholic hand gel where sinks are not practical or achievable
- ↳ Signage over sinks and in staff rooms reminding about handwashing when returning from breaks etc

Risk 2: Exposure to blood/body fluids as a result of a splash or spill

- ↳ Purchase or provide additional protective Australian Standards approved eyewear
- ↳ Provide free or subsidised Hepatitis B vaccinations for staff
- ↳ Identify the high splash-risk procedures and determine alternative practices where possible

Risk 3: Exposure to blood/body fluids as a result of a needlestick injury

- ↳ Increase the number of sharps containers located at the point of use
- ↳ Introduce retractable syringes
- ↳ Provide free or subsidised Hepatitis B vaccinations for staff
- ↳ Ensure that practice policy dictates no recapping of needles

Risk 4: Patient exposure to blood/body fluids from a healthcare worker infected with a blood borne virus

- ↳ Ensure that all staff understand their responsibilities and duty of care in regard to Standard Infection Control Precautions.
- ↳ Ensure that any staff member known to be a carrier of a blood-borne virus does not perform exposure prone procedures that may place patients or other staff members at risk of acquiring that blood-borne virus.
- ↳ Ensure that a copy of the Queensland Health Policy – Management of the Infected Health Care Worker <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/infectioncontrol/documents/pdf/APPENDIX%20P4.pdf>

Risk 5: Exposure to, and/or acquisition of a vaccine preventable communicable disease

- ↳ All staff are advised at interview and before commencement of the known and potential risks of exposure to any communicable diseases in the context of the health services you provide.
- ↳ Implement a staff health assessment form to assess the current immunity of your staff to the known communicable diseases. A sample Staff Health Assessment Form is available for download in Microsoft Word format at http://www.health.qld.gov.au/chrisp/icmp_pha/docs/sample_stfhlthform.doc. The form is provided as an example only and should be revised to reflect your own local requirements and legal advice.

Risk 6: Cross-infection due to poor compliance with cleaning of patient care equipment & environment

- ↳ Ensure that appropriately labelled waste receptacles are available for clinical and general waste streams.
- ↳ Introduce single-use, disposable devices for those items that are labour intensive in regard to cleaning and disinfection.
- ↳ Develop a cleaning & disinfection audit tool to assess compliance with AS/NZS 4185:2006 (Office-based health care facilities- Reprocessing of reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment)
- ↳ Introduce regular cleaning audits.

Risk 7: Cross-infection due to inappropriate accommodation of clients with symptoms of disease

- ↳ Introduce a booking-in form that identifies patients with known or potential communicable diseases.
- ↳ Identify a room in the facility that may be utilised to segregate infectious patients from the waiting room area.

Risk 8: Cross-infection due to the re-use of medical devices marked as single use only

- ↳ Appoint a senior staff member to perform a risk assessment on any new products being considered for trial or purchase.
- ↳ Conduct an audit on all items used for patient care to ensure that any items marked as “single use only” are not reprocessed for reuse.

Risk 9: Preventable patient or staff harm due to the absence of an infection control program

- ↳ Appoint a senior staff member to take responsibility for the infection control portfolio.
- ↳ Ensure that the infection control officer is provided with sufficient education and/or resources to perform in this role.
- ↳ Ensure that any relevant guidelines, policies and standards are accessible to all staff.

Risk 10: Non-compliance with established policies/procedures resulting in a preventable infection

- ↳ Develop a policy for the facility that outlines the procedure for investigating an infection control breach or near miss.