

Benefits of the Risk Management Process

- Ensures that you achieve your aim of providing a high quality, safe health service.
- Demonstrates to your patients and staff that due diligence or care is being exercised in the delivery of your health services.
- Provides the process for identifying those risks within your system that if ignored or left unidentified may result in serious outcomes for your patients, staff and business.

The Risk Management Process Simplified

The process for undertaking risk management is simple and iterative.

1. Establish the context
 - ↳ The risk of infection to all persons receiving health services
 - ↳ The risk of infection to all persons employed or engaged at the facility
 - ↳ The risk of infection to all other persons at the facility
2. Identify the risks
 - ↳ 10 mandatory minimum infection control elements have been interpreted in the context of risk eg. Cross-infection due to poor compliance with handwashing.
 - ↳ Common factors that contribute to eliminating or minimising the risk have been provided as cues.
3. Analyse & Evaluate the risks
 - ↳ Use risk analysis matrix to calculate risk level.
4. Manage the risks
 - a. Purchase additional equipment or resources
 - b. Provide additional training
 - c. Redesign work practices
5. Document – Communicate – Monitor – Review
 - ↳ Your Infection Control Management Plan

Using the Risk Analysis Matrix

Risk Assessment is the estimation of the *likelihood* of the risk occurring and the *consequence* if it does occur.

Likelihood	Consequences				
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
Unlikely	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Very High
Possible	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Very High
Likely	Medium	High	Very High	Very High	Extreme
Almost Certain	Medium	Very High	Very High	Extreme	Extreme
Low Risk	Manage by routine procedures.				
Medium Risk	Manage by specific monitoring or audit procedures.				
High Risk	This is serious and must be addressed immediately by the practice management.				
Very High Risk					
Extreme Risk					
<p>The magnitude of the consequences of an event, should it occur, and the likelihood of that event occurring, are assessed in the context of the effectiveness of your existing strategies and controls. Consequences and likelihood are combined to produce a level of risk.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Risk = Consequence x Likelihood</p>					

Where no reliable or relevant past data is available, subjective estimates may be made which reflect an individual's or practice's degree of belief that a particular event or outcome will occur.

Sources of this information for your practice or facility may include:

- Past records – will provide you with patient profiles, demographics, medical conditions etc.
- Practice and relevant experiences
- Published literature
- Specialist and expert judgements