

Health Service Directive

Directive # QH-HSD-043:2014
Effective Date: 23 May 2014
Review Date: 23 May 2017
Supersedes: New document

Legionella pneumophila: Water Management for its Prevention and Control in Public Healthcare Facilities

Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to support the delivery of safe public health services through the development and maintenance of water quality risk management plans and water quality testing.

Scope

This directive applies to all Hospital and Health Services (HHS).

Principles

- *Compliance*: healthcare facilities comply with relevant legislation relating to the delivery of health services and maintenance of safe health care service environments
- *Timely reporting and notifications*: timely reporting is consistently maintained to support safe health care across service units, facilities and the health care system
- *Prevention focus*: healthcare facilities take a preventative focus (including risk assessment planning and testing) to minimising the risk of *Legionella pneumophila* infection in health care facilities.

Outcomes

Hospital and Health Services included in the scope of this directive shall achieve the following outcomes:

- The development and implementation of water quality risk management plans in public hospitals and public residential aged care facilities by 30 June 2015.



Mandatory requirements

Hospital and Health Services shall ensure water quality risk management plans include:

- the design, commissioning, installation, operation and maintenance of cooling water systems and water delivery systems where relevant to the unit/facility
- analysis of risks at both unit and facility level
- likelihood and consequence ratings
- scheduled testing of facility water supplies at intervals informed by the risk rating assigned to units/facilities
- responses (including corrective actions) to microbial risks associated with *Legionella pneumophila*.

Related or governing legislation, policy and agreements

- *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*
- *Public Health Act 2005*
- *Public Health Regulation 2005*
- *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011*
- Australian Standards 3666, 3500
- Legionellosis: National Guidelines for Public Health Units
- Integrated Risk Management Policy QH-POL-070:2011
- Implementation Standard for Integrated Risk Governance and Management QH-IMP-070-1:2013

Supporting documents

- Guidelines for Managing Microbial Water Quality in Health Facilities 2013



Business area contact

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Senior Medical Officer, Communicable Diseases Unit, Chief Health Officer Branch
Director, Water, Health Protection Unit, Chief Health Officer Branch

Review

This Health Service Directive will be reviewed at least every three years.

Date of last review: N/A

Supersedes: New Health Service Directive

Approval and Implementation

Directive Custodian

Chief Health Officer
Health Services and Clinical Innovation Division

Approval by Chief Executive

Director-General, Department of Health

Approval date: 23 May 2014

Issued under section 47 of the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*



Definitions of terms used in this directive

Term	Definition / Explanation / Details	Source

Version Control

Insert details of any changes made to this Health Service Directive

Version	Date	Prepared by	Comments
1	23/05/2014	SMO CDU	New document

