

HAND HYGIENE POLICY

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy No | 88/04 |
| Date of Development: | March 2004 |
| Policy review and co-ordination responsibility: | Infection Control & Infectious Diseases Depts |
| Review dates: | March 2005 |
| Authorised by: | Austin Executive Committee |

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To ensure all healthcare workers (HCWs) at Austin Health are credentialled in hand hygiene, by completing an interactive learning package that is available on the Intranet (for HCWs at Austin Health) and on the DeBug™ website (for nursing students and the general public) at www.DeBug.net.au.

The package consists of 30 slides with each few slides followed by a multi-choice question about the preceding material (18 information and 12 questionnaire slides). Immediate feedback is provided after each answer is selected in the slide show and the next page is not shown until the correct answer is selected. On completion of the slide show, HCWs complete a registration form by entering either their Employee or NT login (computer) number and then proceed to the test questionnaire (the same 12 questions as seen in slide show, reinforcing each message). HCWs are considered credentialled in Hand Hygiene if they get at least 80% (10/12) correct. Once the Hand Hygiene learning package is complete (slide-show, registration page and test questionnaire), HCWs are informed of their score and if they scored at least 80%, an option of printing a certificate is provided. All data is recorded and available to managers and HCWs through accessing the reports on the Intranet.

POLICY OVERVIEW

Austin Health strives to continually improve hand hygiene compliance and reduce infections and actively encourages all staff to be adequately educated about the use of DeBug™ and other aspects of Infection Prevention.

POLICY APPLICATION

At Austin Health:

1. From January 2004, all new HCWs will be required to be credentialled in Hand Hygiene as a condition of their employment. This condition will be written into all future employment Contracts for Austin Health HCWs and is also a requirement for all student HCWs.
2. All current HCWs are encouraged (but not mandated) to become credentialled in Hand Hygiene during 2004.

3. From January 2005, credentialling in Hand Hygiene will become a mandatory component of the annual performance appraisal of all current and newly appointed HCWs.
4. From January 2005, re-credentialling of all HCWs in Hand Hygiene will be required every two years.

Practical Implementation Issues

Where practicable new staff will complete the Hand Hygiene learning package in HR while waiting to have their photo-ID badge prepared. By accessing the package on the Intranet, their details are recorded, together with the data on current HCWs. The Hand Hygiene learning package is also available to the general public on the Internet (no registration required). HCWs from Austin Health must complete the package on the Intranet (with a hospital computer) for their details to be recorded. The only group that is provided with access to register on the Internet (DeBug™ website) is nursing students who will credential themselves before their placement at Austin Health. CNED and University co-ordinators have access to reports on the Internet (accessed by password only) detailing the nursing students credentialled in Hand Hygiene.

New Medical Interns will be collectively credentialled during their orientation week. A mechanism will also be developed to collectively credential all Residents and Registrars each year. All other new Medical staff will be credentialled at the time of obtaining their photo-ID badge.

It is the responsibility of all managers to ensure that all students (of any type) who may have patient contact are credentialled in Hand Hygiene on commencement of their placement at Austin Health.

SUBJECT EXPERT/ SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Subject expertise and/ or support in the implementation of this policy is available from:

- Infection Control Department (extension 5801) or
- Infectious Diseases Department (extension 6676)

JENNIFER WILLIAMS
Chief Executive Officer

March 2004