



The Royal Australian College of
General Practitioners

RACGP Infection Control Standards for Office-based Practices (4th Edition)

Presented on behalf of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners



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Why Have Changes Been Made?

- 6 years since last edition
- Emerging threats
- Advances in infection control
- Changes in general practice organisation



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What Changes Are There?

- Change of title
- Change of emphasis
- Language used
- Review process
- Changes to the layout
- Addition of a CD containing templates and other useful material
- New Chapters
- New Approaches



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Change of Title

From

- Sterilisation/disinfection guidelines for general practice

To

- RACGP infection control standards for office-based practices



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Change of Emphasis

- Staff education
- Risk assessment
- Alternative strategies



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Language Used

- Standards and safer patient care
- Aligned with RACGP Standards for general practices (3rd Edition)
- More precise : must, needs to, should, can and may are clearly defined.



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Review Process

- Experts
- RACGP National Expert Committee for Standards in General Practice
- RACGP Council
- A medical editor



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Changes to the Layout

5 Sections

Section 1

- Covers Infection Control Principles

Section 2

- Covers Protecting the health of staff

Section 3

- Covers managing the practice physical environment



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Changes to the Layout

Section 4

- Covers procedures for processing reusable equipment

Section 5

- Covers disease surveillance in general practice



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Changes to the Layout

Appendices and templates, tables and illustrations

Table of Contents, Glossary and Index



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Changes to the Layout

CD containing templates and other
useful information

Staff immunisation

Validation templates



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Appendix 5:

File this form in the staff member's personnel file

STAFF IMMUNISATION RECORD

Name _____

Address _____

Date of Birth _____

Vaccine	If completed provide date	Pre - vaccination antibody status and date	Date Received	Date Received	Date Received	Post - vaccination antibody status and date
ADT/Adult DTP						
Hepatitis A						
Hepatitis B						
Polio		N/A				N/A
Influenza		N/A				N/A
Meningococcal C		N/A				N/A
MMR		Measles				Measles
Pneumococcal		Mumps				Mumps
Varicella		N/A				N/A
Other		Rubella				Rubella

Risks of infection and benefits of vaccination explained

Date _____

Signature of person providing advice _____

Signature of staff member acknowledging vaccination advice offered:

Consent for vaccination obtained from staff member

Yes

No

Further counselling and education provided _____



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New Chapters

1. Risk assessment and management
2. Staff education and occupational health and safety requirements
3. Description of the use of personal protective equipment
4. Managing the health of health professionals
5. Disease surveillance in office based practices



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New Approaches

Departures from DoHA Infection Control Guidelines and the Australian Standards AS/NZS 4815:2006

- Steam penetration tests
- Processing of semi critical items
- Recording of the results of the sterilisation cycles
- Linen Management
- Waste Management
- Spacer Management



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What Do Practices Need to Do?

Written policies on:

- Sharps injury management policy (Section 2, chapter 4 and Appendix 6)
- Blood and body fluid spills management (Section 3, chapter 4)
- Hand hygiene (Section 1, chapter 3)
- A regular cleaning schedule (Section 3, chapter 2-3)



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What Do Practices Need to Do?

- The provision of sterile instruments (Section 4)
- Procedures for all aspects of the sterilisation process (Section 4)
- Procedures for waste management (Section 2, chapter 3 and Section 3, chapter 6)



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What Do Practices Need to Do?

- The appropriate use of standard and additional precautions (Section 1, chapter 4-6)
- Prevention of disease in the workplace by serology and immunisation (Section 2, chapter 1)