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1.1 Healthcare Acquired Infection Policy

HEALTHCARE ACQUIRED INFECTION POLICY 2020

(INFECTION CONTROL POLICY)

Scope

North Coast Surgical Suite (NCSS) is committed to maintaining the highest level of safety for both staff and clients by complying with recognized infection control procedures and standards.

Actions and Methods

The infection control policy has been implemented to reduce the incidence and risks of infection and prevent infection transmission.

The infection control policy aims to ensure

- Staff are educated regarding infection control issues relevant to the operation of the practice.
- Occupational Health and Safety Laws are adhered to at all times.
- Reporting of any incidents and corrective action taken.

Standard and Transmission-based precautions are the two methods used.

At NCSS, **Standard Precautions** are implemented which include

- Safe work practices for the care and treatment of all clients regardless of their known infection status.
- Hand washing before and after contact with client and after removing gloves.
- Use of personal protective equipment, gowns, gloves, eyewear as necessary.
- Aseptic non touch technique for procedures and wound care.
- Availability of alcohol based hand rub in each consulting room.
- Correct handling and disposal of waste.
- Appropriate cleaning of equipment: Ultrasound Transducer cleaned according to ASUM Guidelines as documented Transducer Reprocessing section of NCSS Self-Determined Ultrasound Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Maintain hygienic environment.
- Use single use only equipment whenever possible.
- Contaminated waste containers are supplied to each consulting and procedure room.
- Reprocessing of reusable medical equipment and instruments at St Vincents Private Hospital CSSD Unit. St Vincents is an accredited facility reporting to Private Health Regulatory Team, the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards and the Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre.
- All examination couches covered with fresh, single use, purpose designed paper prior to patient contact.

Effective work practices to minimize infection during **a) minor surgical procedures** include:

- Implementation of standard procedures as documented above
- Sterile technique, use of sterile instruments, creating a sterile field within which to operate.
- Use of sterile gloves.
- One use only medication.
- Sterile wound dressing materials.

and **b) during self determined Ultrasound**

- performing non-critical techniques and using mid-level transducer reprocessing when only low-level is required
- see [Self-determined Ultrasound Policy](#) for details.

The second method of infection control is **Transmission Based Precautions**. This method is recommended in situations where Standard Precautions may be insufficient to prevent transmission of infection.

The application of Transmission Based Precautions is important in containing multi resistant organisms and outbreak management.

These may include

- Allocating a single room.
- Providing patient specific equipment.
- Droplet and air borne disease precautions.

The need to implement these precautions is limited within NCSS due to the scope of our practice and the fact that the client population are presenting on an outpatient basis. In the event of any community outbreak all policies and procedures would be revised and an outbreak specific policy would be implemented for the appropriate timeframe. This is our [2020 Covid 19 policy](#).

References

NSW Department of Health Infection Control Policy.

NHMRC Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare. (2019) full pdf copy attached below

NSW Occupational Health and Safety ACT 2000

["Living" link to NHMRC guidelines](#)