Australian Commission on **Safety and Quality** in Health Care

Fact sheet
For clinicians
and health services

The Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control Guide (2nd edition) Summary Resource

Key changes and important information

The Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control Guide (the Guide) provides practical infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance for aged care providers and supports high-quality care that protects older people, and the aged care workforce.

The Guide

The Guide was first developed and published by the Commission in 2024 and supplements the *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare*. The second edition of the Guide strengthens alignment with the Aged Care Quality Standards. The IPC Guidance in Aged Care Reference Group contributed to the development of the Guide and includes IPC expertise, as well as representatives from residential, home and community-based aged care to ensure that the Guide provides guidance that is practical across the range of aged care settings. The Commission also consulted relevant professional bodies, such as the Australian Dental Association, to provide discipline specific advice.

What is new?

- Chapter 3 is a new chapter on implementing an IPC lead into an aged care organisation.
- Chapter 6 includes a new table outlining the types and features of personal protective equipment for the face and eyes.

What has changed?

- Improved alignment with the Aged Care Quality Standards.
- Chapter 4 includes updated content on dental and oral care aligned with recommendations from the Australian Dental Association. Updated content on Nutrition and Hydration aligned with recommendations the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.
- Chapter 6 includes updated table 17 (*Precautions for infectious respiratory diseases*) to provide updated guidance relevant to the aged care sector.
- Chapter 7 includes updated cleaning schedule to differentiate between types of equipment, personal items, environmental fixtures and workplace items.

IPC Lead chapter

The IPC Lead chapter provides advice on embedding an IPC Lead within an aged care organisation. This role can strengthen connections between organisational governance, the IPC Lead, the workforce, and older people, supporting a shared focus on infection prevention and control, safety, and wellbeing. The chapter does not provide detailed guidance on implementing IPC activities, as this information is covered throughout the rest of the Guide.

Supporting resources

The Commission has developed additional resources to support IPC efforts within aged care organisations, including posters on standard and transmission-based precautions. The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission also has additional resources on IPC resources, and IPC and hand hygiene training modules available.

The second edition of the Aged Care IPC guide is now available on the Commission's website

For more information

Please visit: https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/resources/aged-care-infection-prevention-and-control-guide

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