

Sharing on the 5th International Congress of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APUSIC)

Infection Control Education –
the way forward

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Focus of this sharing

- Update on infection control (IC) education and training
 - **IC Training for Medical And Nursing Students – Is the Current Curriculum Meeting the Needs?**
 - **How Hospital Associated Infections Can Impact on a Person's Life and Family**



IC Training for Medical And Nursing Students – Is the Current Curriculum Meeting the Needs?

by Prof Ben Canny
Deputy Dean (MBBS)
Monash University, Australia



Australian Undergraduates' Curriculum on IC

Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Methods to minimize the transmission of infection between patients<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Correct <u>hand washing</u> and <u>aseptic technique</u>- <u>Rationally prescribes antibiotics/ antiviral therapy</u> for common conditions
Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Except the skills mentioned above, <u>there is not much coverage on IC</u> during undergraduate training, despite<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Australian Midwifery and Nursing Council suggested that maintain IC standard is one of the core competency for RN– Repeatedly mentions patient safety issues• A significant number of <u>postgraduate qualifications in IC for Nurses</u>



What do Australian do with respect to IC training for undergraduates?

- Most courses have
 - to inform students of responsibilities with respect to infection control
 - modules that focus on clinical/ surgical skills (i.e. aseptic technique, surgical scrub)
 - elements that deal with the biology and epidemiology of infections



What don't they do?

- Signpost it adequately
- Make use of available resources from other authorities
- Make assessment open and transparent, including both elements of mastery and graded assessment



IC training in Monash MBBS

- Good Bits
 - Handwashing and epidemiology: in semester 1
 - Sterile techniques: a number of times in the course
 - Specific induction to clinical sites
 - Specific learning in final year
 - Rotations in final year
 - Possibility of activities appearing in assessment (esp OSCEs)



IC training in Monash MBBS

- Not so good bits
 - In an integrated curriculum, things can get lost
 - Reliance upon a didactic delivery of curriculum
 - Assessment is a sampling exercise, so therefore can be patchy
 - Some students can ‘float’ through not really knowing why or how



Is the current curriculum meeting the needs?

- Probably yes, but perhaps more by luck than good judgment
- Assessment is too sketchy



Challenges of IC education

- Time
- Opportunity
- Multi-disciplinary



Proposed IC curriculum for undergraduates

- APSIC
 - Assist universities by defining minimum requirements in knowledge, skills and attitudes
 - Review and recommend available resources for IC training
- Universities
 - Decide the competency assessment in these basic elements
 - Work with healthcare providers (the first employers) to develop ideas regarding the accrediting of training for employment



How Hospital Associated Infections Can Impact on a Person's Life and Family

By Kate O'Donaghue
Executive

Victorian Infection Control Professionals
Association (VICPA), Australia

Background of the storytelling video

- To support infection control professionals in their infection prevention and control initiatives, VICPA has developed a storytelling video, with the assistance and support by a family
- Aim
 - share relative's experiences and the impact that acquiring a hospital associated infection has had on their life



How Hospital Associated Infections Can Impact on a Person's Life and Family

Glen's Story

- Produced by The Victorian Infection Control Professionals Association (VICPA)
- <http://www.hha.org.au/ForHealthcareWorkers/education.aspx#VideoFiles>



The power of storytelling video

- Valuable educational tool in a healthcare setting where **behavioral change** can be significant barrier to quality improvement initiatives
- The simple art of storytelling can inspire culture change, promote dialogue and motivate staff to improve practices and compliance with infection prevention and control strategies by using a REAL STORY



How will the video be utilized?

- Orientation
- Workshops
- Infection Control Link nurse sessions
- Education sessions
- Online resources for Infection Control Consultants / others



Summary

- IC education - the way forward
 - It is important to implant an IC mindset at the early stage of healthcare training, by using a well designed IC curriculum
 - Apart from promoting knowledge and skills on infection control measures, alternative methods (i.e. storytelling video) to promote behavioral change might be a useful tool to improve the compliance of IC measures



End

