

The Challenges and Success of Infection Prevention and Control in Mental Health Settings

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Statewide Mental Health Services

- 13 inpatient units
 - 4 within hospitals
 - 2 on the prison campus
 - Mother Baby Unit
 - Remaining like aged care facilities



Statewide Mental Health Services

Community mental health sites

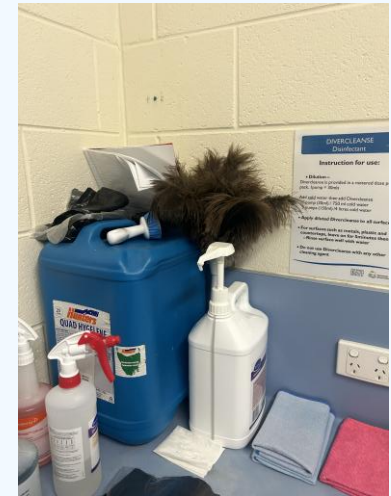


- Adult Mental Health Service
- Older Persons Mental Health Service
- Alcohol & Drug Service
- Correctional Primary Health Service
- Forensic Mental Health Service
- Child & Youth Mental Health Service
- Tasmanian Eating Disorder Service

- 30 + locations statewide

Cleaning - challenges

- Cleaning products
- Cleaner's rooms
- Broken equipment
- No cleaning supervisors
- Contracted cleaning
- Items on floors inhibit cleaning



Cleaning - successes

- Microfiber mops – colour-coded
 - training
- Chemical dispensing stations
 - Training
- New cleaning trolleys
- Standardised products
- Cleaning schedules/checklists
- Cleaning & Janitorial products tender
- Increased my own knowledge of cleaning



Improvements



Carpets removed:

- Treatment areas
- Patient rooms

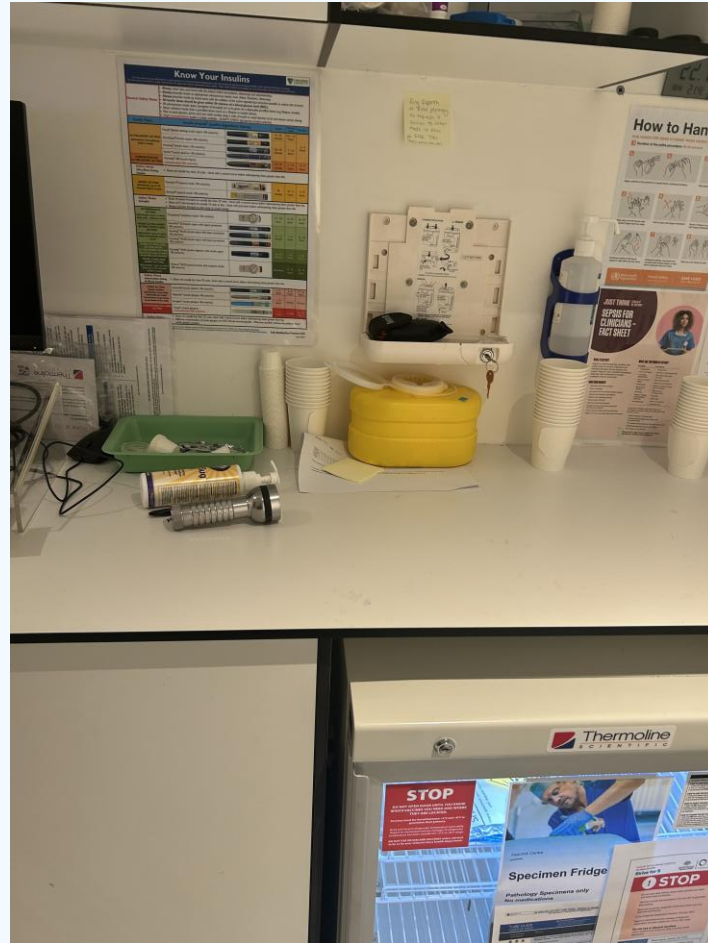
Venetian Blinds replaced

Removal of wooden furniture

Management of sharps

Sterile stock management

Improvements – management of sharps



Improvements – removal of wooden furniture



Improvements – management of sterile stock



- Auditing non-hospital settings
- Dedicated areas

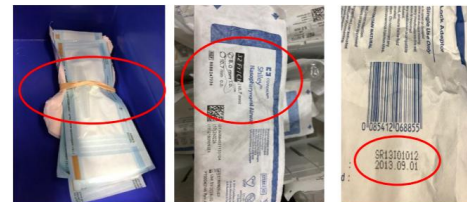
Sterile Stock Non-Conforming Stock

Sterile stock that is non-conforming (for example sterility is compromised and therefore not suitable for use) –

- Must be discarded if single use.
- Reprocessed if a Reusable Medical Device.

Sterility is compromised if the product is:

- Damaged, visibly soiled or opened packaging.
- Wet or comes into contact with a wet surface.
- Placed or dropped on a dirty/contaminated surface e.g. floor.
- No indication of having been through a sterilising process i.e. the indicator has not changed.
- Stock which has passed the expiry date.
- No writing or highlighting on packaging.

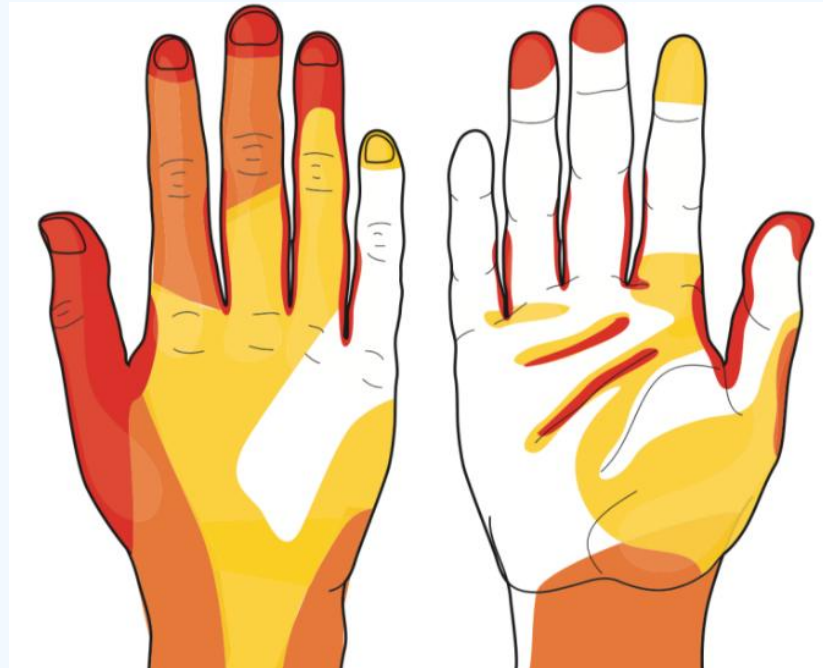


Do not use rubber bands or ties to bundle sterile stock



Hand Hygiene - challenges

- Alcohol based hand rub
 - Ingestion
 - missiles
- Handwash basins
- Anti-ligature
- Not participating in NHHI
- Lower socioeconomic status



“I don’t have to wash my hands, I don’t touch patients”

Hand Hygiene - successes

- Auditing
 - Glitter bug
 - Bare below the elbows
- Placement of ABHR
- A general soap dispenser is to be provided in all other locations (AusHFG)
- Celebrating hand hygiene day
- Change of hand hygiene products



“During COVID, I was told it was better to have long sleeves to protect your arms.”

Hand Hygiene - successes

Australasian Health Facilities Guidelines – Part D: Infection Prevention & Control – April

Mental health
inpatient bedrooms

Not provided within
the room.

To be located in
staff areas only.

Type B handwash basin to be accessed in corridors.
(1 for approx. 6 beds).



Aseptic Technique

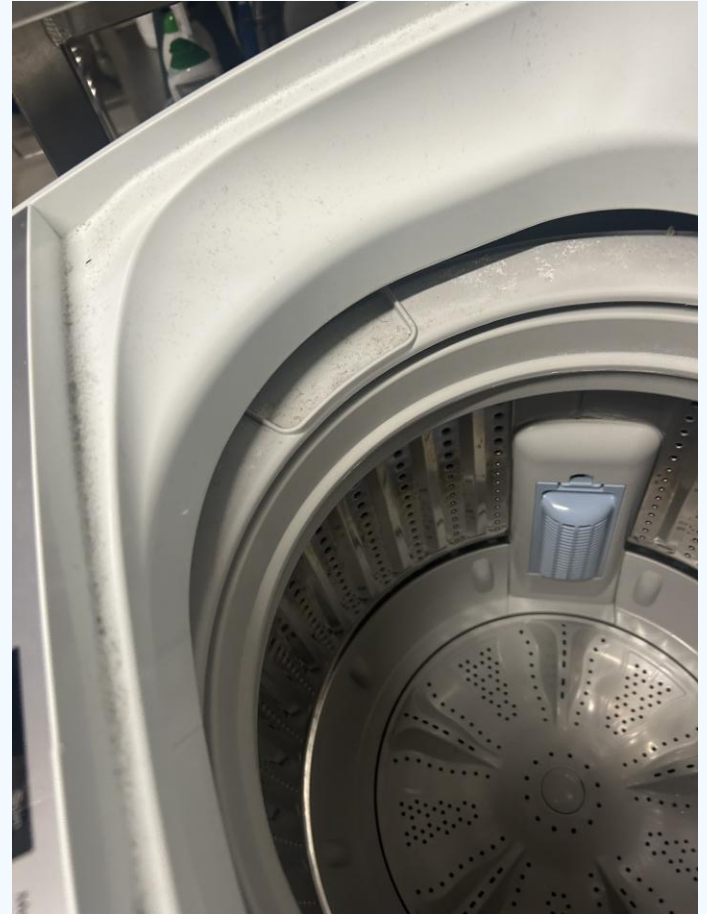
“We don’t do any aseptic procedures in mental health”

- Depot “depo” injections
- Wound dressings
- Venepuncture
- Workshops
- Decontamination



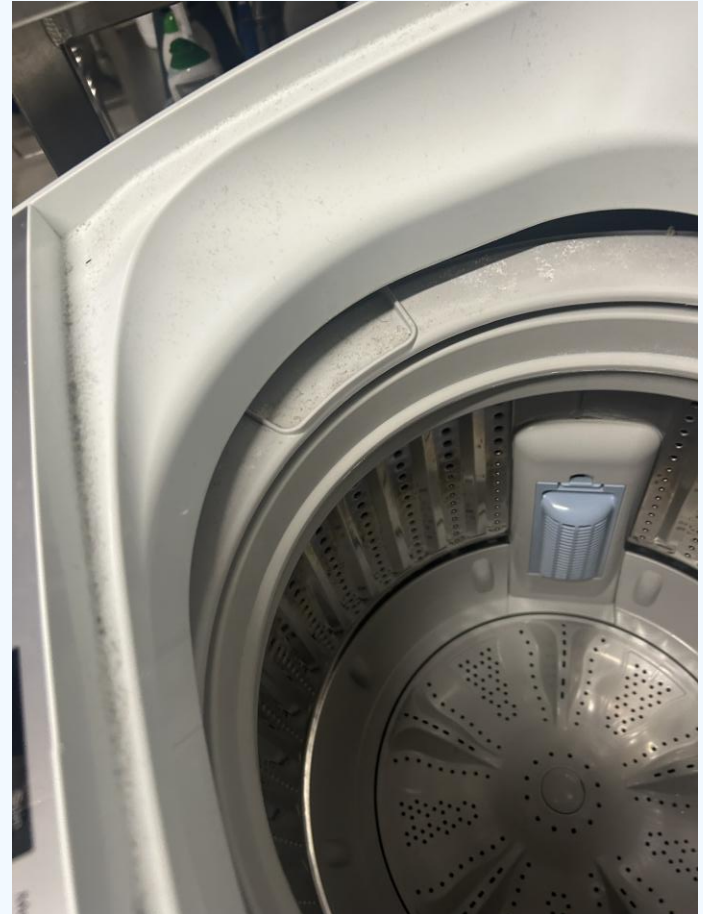
Patient laundries - challenges

- Inappropriate use
 - Underlying reasons
- Air drying
- Cleaning
- Dryers – lint



Patient laundries - successes

- Highlighted as an area of concern, September 2024 accreditation
- Patient laundry audit
- Education
- Guides
- Cleaning checklist and schedules
- Single portion detergents (tender)



Management of infections - challenges

- Increased risk of gastroenteritis and respiratory infection
- Isolation/restraint
- Smoking
 - Sharing of cigarettes
- Psychosis/dementia/risk to self
- Staff precautions
- Chickenpox – mental health orders
- Exposures - spitting



Other challenges/successes

- So many sites!!!!
- No designated building and engineering services/cleaning
- Old buildings/ New developments/fresh eyes
- Homelike environments/ v's sites likely to get damaged/deteriorate over time
- Paper bag bin liners – the issue never goes away!
- Antimicrobial stewardship for self harm
- Thankful for:
 - Statewide DoH infection control committee
 - IPC network
 - Staff health units



Why mental health?

- It's interesting/diverse/enjoy travelling
- I feel safe
- Thinking outside the square
- Amazing staff wanting change; working in difficult situations
- Rewarding
- Showcasing events - sharing
- Standard 3 Infection Control Meetings – sharing/learning



Any questions?



Thank you

References

Australasian Health Facility Guidelines



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