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Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

Infection Prevention and Control During Construction and Renovation Guideline.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on infection prevention and control (IPC) risk mitigation strategies in health service organisations and to reduce risks associated with construction, renovation and maintenance activities.

Background

Construction, renovation and maintenance activities within a healthcare setting require planning and coordination to minimise the risk of infection in patients, residents, consumers and healthcare workers (HCWs).

Infection prevention and control staff must be involved in the planning of all work projects throughout the activity phase.

Construction, renovation and maintenance activities can cause environmental disturbances and generate large amounts of dust and debris, which may carry micro-organisms including fungal spores, that can cause healthcare associated infections.

Key Considerations

Planning and documentation

- IPC representative to be included as part of the planning and design process
- A risk assessment must be undertaken to identify all strategies required to prevent adverse impacts of works on patients, residents and HCWs within the healthcare facility.
- The scope of the construction project is detailed and communicated to all key stakeholders.
- The agreed scope of works will inform a risk assessment undertaken by the IPC representative, project manager and department or facility manager.
- IPC and project manager confirm all containment measures are in place.

Risk

A risk identification strategy must be in place, and include plans for:

- A clear identification for the scope and size of the construction work
- The identification of at-risk populations
- The location of patients/residents in relation to the planned works
- Impact on ventilation systems, and assessment for microbiological air sampling



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- Traffic, supply and patient routes
- Identification of possible contaminants

Signage

- Non-authorized entry, the IPC construction permit and signs to keep doors closed, are to be visible at the entrance to all construction sites. Individuals are not permitted to enter the construction site unless authorized by the site manager.

Construction site monitoring

- The project, site or facility managers are responsible for maintaining compliance with containment procedures within the work site.
- IPC, project manager and site or facility manager are responsible for regular monitoring of the hoarding and containment barriers, areas adjacent to the construction site and immediate surroundings.

Breach rectification

- All infringements are to be notified to the delegated representative and IPC representative as soon as possible.
- The project manager must communicate and rectify breaches with the site manager.

Completion of the project

- Prior to the removal of any barriers or hoarding, the site manager will facilitate a 'builders clean' to remove gross soil. Following which the project manager will facilitate a terminal clean of the area with the environmental services department.
- Post terminal clean, IPC will undertake an IPC inspection as part of the operational commissioning process.

