



May 2017 Infection Control learning sheet # 4 - six of your brilliant ideas to make good practice easy

1. Hand Hygiene with alcohol based hand rub (gold standard for hand hygiene for clinical care)

- don't be shy about having more than one bottle per room but place them next to where staff have patient contact - never at the sink! (you know why?)

2. Staff Influenza immunization: we expect staff (inc recep/admin to have an annual shot unless contraindicated)

- perhaps consider what one large Melbourne teaching hospital expects of staff who don't or can't have the annual flu shot: they must wear a mask for their whole shift from the time a suspect influenza patient enters the hospital! (it's to protect others)

3. Patients feeling short changed if antibiotics are not prescribed?

- reception at a community health client asks all patients to complete and sign the following before they see the doctor - that he/she will not ask for antibiotics if the doctor determines that a viral infection is present and further, that if antibiotics are prescribed, the patient signs that they will be taken only as directed!
- Patients could be reminded that antibiotics were developed for life threatening infections and make only one day's difference to an ear infection and a UTI in an immunocompetent person - where did we go wrong?

4. Toys and magazines - do we have to have them?

- if you are sick of removing them when a person with a significant communicable infection is present or rounding them up each day or washing them each week or removing them after seeing them mouthed, but still want to provide toys etc, why not treat them as a giveaway i.e. collect safe toys to clean and give away as needed - always provide a few for the GPs to give away too. No daily tidying up and no washing. Do the same for magazines when a patient who is waiting asks. Prime patients by placing a message on your on hold machine

5. Spot cleaning - expectations and making it easy

- staff are expected to do spot cleaning to keep your clinic looking clean. However, a trip to the cleaners cupboard is not realistic so provide detergent wipes throughout for all staff to spot clean any marks as soon as they are noticed.

6. Some purpose specific kits - receptionists tool box, pandemic kit, body fluid spills kit - making it easy

- declutter reception and remove towers of vomit bags and boxes of gloves - consider the receptionists tool kit
- check the pandemic kit because rubber on the flu masks deteriorates - replace
- steal a couple of combined disposable mask/eyeshields from the treatment room where they are used by GPs when anticipating splash and place in the spill kit to encourage staff to use adequate protection and replace safety glasses and masks

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