

POSITION STATEMENT

AS1071:2015 PLACEMENT AND PRESENTATION OF HAND HYGIENE MATERIALS IN RELATION TO THE BASIN IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

The Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) has considered the implementation of AS1071:2015 in NSW public health organisations (PHO) and does not require NSW PHO to retro-fit existing infrastructure. AS1071:2015 *Placement and presentation of hand hygiene materials in relation to the basin in healthcare settings* may however be considered for new builds or refurbishments as part of the planning process.

Background

AS1071:2015 is based on a study focused on hand hygiene behaviours in one ward over a two week period. During the consultation phase, the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC), Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA), the CEC and its healthcare associated infections advisory committees advised against the publication of this standard based on the limited supporting evidence.

Following release of AS1071:2015 Hand Hygiene Australia did not endorse or support the standard. The HHA position is supported by the ACSQHC and the CEC. Implementation of AS1071:2015 as a retrofit in NSW public health organisations would involve significant change that is not justified until sufficient supporting evidence is available.

AS1071:2015 is not referenced in State or Commonwealth legislation which means that adherence to this standard is not mandatory⁽¹⁾.

Recommendation

When planning, designing and constructing healthcare facilities the CEC recommends use of the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines (AusHFG) Part D: Infection Prevention Control. These guidelines include guidance on hand hygiene, hand basin types and uses, and hand hygiene schedule and placement.

Reference

1. Standards and the Law (2017). Standards Australia.

Viewed on http://www.standards.org.au/StandardsDevelopment/What_is_a_Standard/Pages/Standards-and-the-Law.aspx

About the Healthcare Associated Infections Program

The CEC's Healthcare Associated Infections program aims to assist local health districts and specialty health networks to improve systems to manage and monitor the prevention and control of HAIs.

For further information on the Healthcare Associated Infections program, please visit

<http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/assurance-governance/healthcare-associated-infections>