**Infection Control**

N.B. Please refer to the Provincial and Institutional Infection Control Policy to ensure that the policy is implemented effectively

1) **Hand washing**
   - Full scrub up for ALL STAFF at the beginning of shift
   - Wash hands in-between babies and use chlorohexidine hand lotion
   - Mothers and visitors to wash hands on entering the wards

2) **High & Low dusting**
   - High dusting to be done weekly
   - Counter tops to be dusted daily
   - Floors to be mopped daily and PRN if necessary
   - Windows cleaned monthly

3) **Milk Kitchen (where applicable)**
   - Ideally all milk feeds should be mixed in a central milk kitchen in the hospital with its own dedicated staff
   - The milk kitchen should be thoroughly cleaned daily, including the microwave
   - Feeding utensils to be washed after use and then sent to CSSD to be re-sterilised
   - Fridge to be thoroughly cleaned weekly
   - All milk feeds are to be mixed according to aseptic technique

4) **Staff**
   - No watches or jewellery to be worn
   - Only wedding bands permitted
   - No wearing of long sleeves, sleeves to be rolled up
   - Staff should cut their nails
   - All staff members who have upper respiratory infections should be treated immediately and they must wear masks when in the nursery

5) **Equipment**
   - Daily cleaning of incubators with hibiscrub and water
   - Daily cleaning of saturation monitors, syringe pumps, probes etc. which are being used on a baby
   - Scale must be cleaned with chlorhexidine tincture in-between weighing babies
   - When the baby is transferred from the incubator to cot or if baby dies, the incubator must be thoroughly cleaned with hibiscrub and all equipment used on the baby must be cleaned (see "Incubator Care" protocol)
   - Suction bottles, oxygen bottles and tubing must be changed daily
   - Head boxes and resuscitation crib to be checked and cleaned daily
   - Used equipment to be sent to CSSD - disposable items should be discarded and not re-sterilized
   - Nasal prongs to be discarded after use
   - Ambubags and masks to be cleaned with hibiscrub after use
   - **Weekly Cleaning**
     - Medicine and emergency trolleys must be checked daily and cleaned weekly
     - Stethoscope earpieces must be cleaned after use and be soaked weekly
     - High dusting to be done weekly
     - Walls, windows, doors and skirting boards to be cleaned monthly
   - **Miscellaneous**
     - 10 ml saline ampoule used for cleaning eyes must be discarded after use once opened
     - Nasogastric tube aspirate and urine syringes must be changed daily and dated
     - Phototherapy eye shields must be used once and discarded after use or if soiled
     - Probe covers must be cleaned with hibiscrub, dried and re-used
6) **The Baby**
- Clean all newborns’ eyes with saline and apply Terramycin® as per standing order
- A first baby bath should not be done until baby’s condition, especially temperature, is stable
- Cord must be cleansed with chlohexidine
- A gastric aspirate should be should be taken within an hour after birth - for all premature or sick babies to rule out chorioamnionitis
- All used vials must be discarded immediately

a. **Medications**
- Rubber bung to be cleaned with chlohexidine tincture and allowed to dry prior to drawing up (use of needle free devices is advisable)
- Aseptic technique must be used when drawing blood specimens
- Multidose vials should not be used if possible - if used, they must be discarded after each medication round

b. **Intravenous lines** *(see "IV Lines" protocol)*
- Prepare surface with chlorohexidine tincture prior to running through
- Aseptic technique must be used when erecting IV lines
- IV lines to be changed every 72 hours
- Ensure IV lines are dated
- Needle free system to be used on all IV lines, for bag and vial access
- Clear fluid filters should be used on all IV lines

c. **Nasogastric tubes to be changed every 3 days**
- Surgically clean procedure to be used
- See Insertion of nasogastric tube procedure in "Establishing Feeding" protocol
- Ensure the nasogastric tube is dated and changed every 3 days

d. **Dummies to be changed daily**

e. **Linen / clothes**
- Linen should be changed daily and PRN if necessary (when linen available)
- Nursery clothes should be changed daily and clothes washed by a private laundry

f. **Feeding**
- Baby to be fed with a sterile syringe at each feed
- Continuous feed syringes are to be changed 4 hourly and the extension sets are to be changed daily
- Ensure mothers are taught cleanliness with regard to expressing breast milk. A new sterile bottle, expressing pump and tubing to be used each time the mothers express

g. **Visitors**
- Limited to two per baby, and only parents and grand parents
- Ensure there is no movement of non-nursing personnel and relatives through the unit

7) **Waste Material**
- Ensure separate bins are used for the various waste materials, e.g. ‘sharps’ bins

8) **Special Care Cribs**
- Keep cribs to be placed 1 metre apart