

# The National Infection Control Policy

Consultative Workshop

# Policy Vision

- A microbally safe environment in all health care facilities.

# Goals and Objectives

- ❑ To encourage and improve effective prevention and management of nosocomial infections for both the public and private health care industry.
- ❑ To prevent and minimize environmental hazards associated with microbes for in and out patients, health care workers and visitors of health care institutions.
- ❑ To optimise infection control programs and resources in health care settings.
- ❑ To control and minimize transmission of and colonization by resistant organisms.
- ❑ To improve measurement of the extent of hospital acquired infections.

# What are the problems.

- Lack of area specific infection control policies.**
- Lack of infection control training programs for institutional personnel .**
- Lack of condition specific infection control policies.**
- Infection control manuals .**

# What are the problems

- Lack of outbreak investigation and outbreak management skills.**
- Lack of Hand washing facilities, Isolation facilities, and waste management facilities.**
- Lack of rational antibiotics use monitoring systems.**
- Lack of effective surveillance system for nosocomial infections at institutional, regional, provincial and national level.**
- Non involvement of IC in procurement decisions.**

# What are the problems

- Unclear Job descriptions and delegations.
- Lack of training standards.
- Deficient or non existent employee disease prevention programs, and occupational health programs.
- No infection control in-service training programs.
- No infection control orientation programs.

# What caused these problems.

- A shift from the basics.
- Lack of National policy.
- No focused attention on IC by professional councils.
- Brain drain.
- Staff shortage.
- Unclear mandate at national, provincial and facility level.

# Legal and regulatory obligations

- The Constitution, (Section 7: affords everyone a right to live in an environment that is not harmful to his/ her health or well being.
- Occupational Health and safety Act, No 85 of 1993 Section 8(1) that obliges an employer to provide as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe working environment
- Section 13 imposes a duty on every employer to as far as is reasonably practicable, cause every employee to be made conversant with the hazards to his health and safety, attached to his work, and the precautionary measures to be taken with respect to those hazards.



# Legal and regulatory obligations

The Environmental conservation Act (Act No73 of 1989) in terms of which all wastes containing Hazardous Biological Agents that can cause exposure to disease can only be disposed on sites specifically designed for this purpose.

The Foodstuffs, Cosmetic and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No 54 of 1972) in terms of which the significant hazards in food should be identified and controlled to ensure that food will not cause harm, chemically, biologically or physically when prepared, used or eaten according to its intended use.

# Legal and regulatory obligations

- Hazardous Biological Agents Regulations, promulgated under section 43 of the OSH Act, regulates the exposure of employees to hazardous biological agents.
- Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Regulations, promulgated under section 15, (1) of The Foodstuffs, Cosmetic and Disinfectants Act, 1972, which seeks to address food safety through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production, procurement, handling, manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of the finished product.

# Guiding Principles

- **Duty to care:**
- **Risk management:** Every effort shall be made to identify possibilities for infection and prevent them before they occur.
- **Separation of source:** The source/s of infection has to be separated from the rest of the patients and staff by whatever means necessary and relevant, depending on the mode of transmission.
- **Privacy:** The rights of patients and health care workers to privacy and confidentiality, shall as far as possible be safeguarded, within the constraints of safe practice.

# Guiding Principles

**Occupational Health and safety:** The health and safety of health care workers shall be considered with every plan, action and intervention.

# Areas needing special attention

- Oral Health Services.
- Laundry and linen.
- Waste Management
- Sterilization.
- Surgical Units.
- Geriatric Units.
- Paediatric units.
- Food Services.

# Role Players

- CDC directorates
- Infection control coordinators.
- QA units
- Occupational Health
- Environmental Health.
- Emergency Medical Services.
- Laboratories
- Private health Care Sector.
- Military Health Services.
- Health Technology units.
- Epidemiology and surveillance.

Thank you