

Here, Take This Very Quick Summary of What You Should Know About “The Guidelines”

Are you ready for the new NSQHS Standards? This is the question asked by Margaret Banks, Director of the National Standards Program.

Assessments against the new standards start on January 2019

“All actions in the second edition **must be implemented**, and while the standards are easier to use, **the bar for assessment has been raised**”.

Everyone should understand and be concerned about the high risk of spreading Staphylococcus-aureus infections in the health care sector.

Australian Standards AS/NZS4815 : 2006, Section 10 Disinfection, and AS/NZS4187:2014 Section 6 Disinfection, both refer to and state, word for word “Means of Disinfection” including the holding Times and Temperature for Thermal Disinfection. “Thermal disinfection uses heat and water at temperatures that destroy pathogenic vegetative organisms” Surface temperature 80 degrees C. Minimum disinfection time 10 minutes.

Iatrogenic infections do not discriminate between a hospital or an office based environment, because the pathogens are the same. That is why disinfection is a critical process before sterilization.

AS/NZS 4187:2014 6.3.4 Thermal disinfection shall be performed in a washer/disinfector

The view that ultrasonic cleaners DO NOT DISINFECT has been known for many years and in fact as early as 2001 AS/NZS 4815 stated:

CAUTION: ULTRASONIC CLEANERS CLEAN BUT DO NOT DISINFECT INSTRUMENTS.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Advisory no A16/03 Title “Reprocessing of reusable medical devices in health service organizations” dated 28th September 2017, states Information in this advisory applies to “**All health service organisations**”. **Compliance with AS/NZS** (Australian/New Zealand Standard) **4187 is Mandatory** (stating “Information in this advisory applies to all approved accrediting agencies and health service organisations.”).

There is not an agency (**ACSQHC, NSQHS, NHMRC, HICMR, or Australian Standards**) that recommends handwashing, which is what the majority of clinics say they do... **So Why Is It So?**

The Commissions guidelines are in accordance with the NHMRC and they state that “automated cleaners... reduce the handling of instruments and are recommended for cleaning basic instruments.”

In summary, infection control is definitely something all healthcare professionals should be cautious of. This involves improving your washing and disinfection procedures and clearly understanding the risks of not complying with the Infection Control Guidelines.

After all, ensuring safe care is a core part of ‘your’ business.

Products we can offer you to assist in your assessment process are located on our website