

## Policy Applies To

All Mercy Hospital staff involved in clinical care delivery. Compliance by Credentialed Specialists, allied health personnel, contractors and other access holders who have patient contact will be facilitated by Mercy Hospital staff.

## Related Standards:

- EQUIP Standard 1.5 Criterion 1.5.2
- EQUIP Standard 3.2 Criterion 3.2.1
- Infection Prevention and Control Standards NZS 8134.3:2008

## Rationale:

Mercy Hospital is required to implement an outbreak management plan when risk assessment identifies the presence of a serious disease that has the potential to spread within the hospital environment or community.

## Definitions:

*Outbreak* - May be defined as two or more cases of a disease giving a greater rate of infection than expected within a population over a period of time.

*Intervention* - The point at which an intervention is required will vary according to the risk of infection to those exposed and the transmissibility of the pathogen.

*Management* - The Infection Prevention & Control Nurse in conjunction with the Director of Clinical Services and (where deemed necessary) Infection Prevention & Control Committee will determine the nature and extent of response required in consultation with Credentialed Specialists and Senior Nursing Team.

## Implementation

### Identification of a Potential Outbreak

An outbreak may be identified by;

- Surveillance systems
- Laboratory microbiological data
- Alert by clinical personnel
- Regional Public Health, national or international alerts

### Notification

The Infection Prevention & Control Nurse and the Director of Clinical Services must be notified and will instigate a risk assessment.

### Risk Assessment

A risk assessment is required to establish the certainty of diagnosis of the infection in question. This will involve a Microbiologist or appropriate physician. The risks will be assessed using the following guidelines:

- Contagiousness of the disease

- Severity of the disease
- Number of people affected
- Legal requirements for notification to the Medical Officer of Health

*Key issues to be considered:*

- People with the infection are being appropriately cared for
- Staff providing care are protecting their own health
- Potentially exposed persons are correctly identified and informed
- Risk of infection to others is reduced by implementing control measures

*Communicate and inform*

The following staff must be informed;

- Infection Prevention & Control Committee
- Credentialed Specialists
- Senior Nursing Team and Executive
- Medical Officer of Health as required
- Ministry of Health as required

### **Formation of an Outbreak Committee**

The Outbreak Committee is formed and may include; Microbiologist, Infection Prevention & Control Nurse, Director of Clinical Services, members of the Infection Prevention & Control Committee, representatives from affected clinical area, Health and Safety and Infection Control Representatives, external experts as appropriate. The role of personnel in the Outbreak Committee is to:

- Gather information
- Plan strategy
- Implement control measures. The particular approach will depend on the nature and extent of the disease. (Appendix One)

Communicate with patients, staff, credentialed specialists, other appropriate external agencies. Assist the CEO with media management

### **Evaluation**

- Debrief
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of outbreak prevention and control measures will be completed by the Infection Prevention and Control Nurse providing a written report to the Infection Prevention and Control Committee

### **Control Measures**

Are determined by the Outbreak Committee. (Appendix One)

### **Associated Documents**

#### **External**

- Guidelines for the Management of Norovirus Outbreaks In Hospitals and Elderly Care Institutions, Ministry of Health, January 2009

- Guidelines for the Control and Investigation of Disease Outbreaks, Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) New Zealand, 2012.
- Guidelines for the Control of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in New Zealand. Ministry of Health 2002.
- Guidelines for the Control of Multidrug-resistant organisms in New Zealand, Ministry of Health, 2007.
- List of Diseases Notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health, 2013
- Communicable Disease Control Manual, 2012.
- National Health Emergency Plan, Infectious Diseases, Ministry of Health, 2004.

## Internal

- MDRO policy
- Personal Protective Equipment - Infection Control
- Transmission Based Precautions
- Contact Precautions Policy
- Disease Specific Isolation Precautions - Patient Management
- Communicable Diseases- Staff Management
- Influenza Pandemic Plan, Emergency and Disaster Management Policy
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)
- Risk Management Policy

## Acknowledgements

Southern District Health Board, Outbreak Policy, Midas 41404