



An Clinical Nurse Specialist Infection Control is employed to provide advice, education and to carry out surveillance activities for all services within West Coast District Health Board.

It is acknowledged that whilst infection control advice and activities are available at all times to all services, regular planned education and surveillance is carried out primarily for inpatient areas.

Community-based services receive annual visits and education according to their needs. When an infection control issue arises in community areas, the relevant staff are to contact the Infection Control Advisor for advice and assistance.

The general role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Infection Control is to aid other staff in **preventing, identifying and controlling infections** of patients and staff.

Activities include:

- Surveillance
- Consultation
- Education
- Resource

Responsibilities include:

- Advise (and supervise) staff on Hospital and Community Isolation policies. Advise on the management of problems that may be of an infectious or communicable nature.
- Performs daily or weekly surveillance of all patients to identify Health Care facility based infections.
- Observes, investigates and helps control outbreaks or clusters of infection.
- Discuss Infection Control with staff and participants in in-service education and training.
- Maintains close communication with all Unit Managers and Nurse Clinicians, through meetings and informal discussions, ensuring that the Infection Control Nurse is the primary focal point at which information will accumulate in regard to Patients being admitted to the Hospital, or treated in the Community for possible communicable diseases, and in regard to those who may have institution-associated diseases.
- Institutes, maintains and helps evaluate records and data pertinent to all surveillance monitoring programmes.
- Ascertains the efficiency of sterilization and disinfection methods used throughout the company, and makes recommendations as necessary.
- Review environment cleanliness in all Health Care Facilities, including hospitals, peripheral clinics and dental clinics.



- Serves as consultation on Infection problems related to various clinical areas. Detects evidence of cross-infection and assists in the development and/or implementation of improved infection control measures.
- Suggests revisions of Company procedures and techniques concerning Infection Control, substantiating recommendations.
- Conducts periodic review of cleaning procedures, agents and schedules in use throughout the company.
- Presents Infection Control problems as they arise to the Infection Control Committee. Serves as liaison between Company Infection Control Committee and other health professionals, in the implementation of prevention programmes developed by this group.
- Attends Infection Control Conferences concerning surveillance, prevention and control of Infection in Hospitals and Community, and distributes information to interested areas.
- Prepares monthly and as necessary, reports for the Infection Control Committee.
- Any other duties required by West Coast District Health Board.

2. Clinical Microbiologist

A Clinical Microbiologist is contracted from Canterbury District Health Board. The Clinical Microbiologist provides services to the Grey Hospital Laboratory, CNS Infection Control and general clinical advice.

The Clinical Microbiologist visits Grey Hospital regularly, and is available at other times to provide advice to the CNS Infection Control. This role also provides advice to the Infection Control Committee.

3. Infectious Diseases Physician

A Physician with Infectious Disease expertise works full-time for West Coast District Health Board. He is available for advice, and attends and Chairs the Infection Control Committee meetings, and provides clinical advice.

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WCDHB Infection Control Service Staff

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