



Podiatry Board of Australia

GUIDELINES: INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

4 April 2016

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Introduction

These guidelines have been developed by the Podiatry Board of Australia (Board) to guide podiatrists and podiatric surgeons about appropriate professional practice with respect to infection prevention and control in podiatry practice.

Effective infection prevention and control is central to providing high quality health care for patients and a safe working environment for those that work in healthcare settings.¹

It is critical for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons to ensure that effective infection prevention and control is an integral part of all aspects of their professional practice.

Who needs to use these guidelines?

They apply to all registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons except those with non-practising registration.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons should ensure that all individuals that they work with in their practice also adhere to these guidelines.

Requirements

The Board adopts the National Health and Medical Research Council *Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare* (NHMRC guidelines) as amended from time to time. The NHMRC guidelines were developed using the best available evidence at the time they were written and they aim to promote and facilitate the overall goal of infection prevention and control.

The NHMRC guidelines are structured to address the core principles of infection prevention and control and the underpinning key practice principles across a range of healthcare settings. The core principle of infection prevention and control is to prevent the transmission

of infectious organisms and manage infections if they occur. The underpinning key practice principles include:

1. an understanding of the modes of transmission of infectious agents and an overview of risk management
2. effective work practices that minimise the risk of selection and transmission of infectious agents
3. governance structures that support the implementation, monitoring and reporting of infection prevention and control work practices, and
4. compliance with legislation, regulations and standards relevant to infection prevention and control.

A link to the NHMRC guidelines is provided under the Polices, codes and guidelines section of the Board's website.

All practising podiatrists and podiatric surgeons must be familiar with and practise within the recommendations of the NHMRC guidelines as they apply to the practice setting(s) in which they work.

Authority

The Board has developed these guidelines under section 39 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Guidelines approved by the Board may be used as evidence of what constitutes appropriate professional conduct or practice for podiatry in proceedings against a health practitioner under the National Law, or a law of a co-regulatory jurisdiction.

Review

These guidelines will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

Last reviewed: 4 April 2016

These guidelines replace the previous guidelines dated 1 July 2010.

¹ NHMRC (2010) *Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare*, Commonwealth of Australia