



WA Hand Hygiene Program

In May 2019 Operational Directive 0429/13 *National Hand Hygiene Initiative in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities* was rescinded as all Health Service Providers (HSPs) have developed local hand hygiene policies, and the content was considered operational.

Please refer to your local HSP hand hygiene policy.

Auditing requirements

The National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards require health services to have a hand hygiene program in place that is consistent with the current National Hand Hygiene Initiative (NHHI) and jurisdictional requirements¹. Exemptions to the NHHI are listed below.

Compliance data must be submitted three (3) times per year to Hand Hygiene Australia in accordance with their Guidelines: [Guidelines for Data Submission to HHA – Hospitals](#).

Reporting dates for the NHHI:

- March 31
- June 30
- October 31

Exemptions for compliance auditing in WA:

Small hospitals (less than 25 acute beds), **mental health services** and **ambulatory care settings** (e.g. School clinics, community midwifery centres) are exempt from the routine compliance auditing component of the NHHI, as meaningful data is unlikely to be obtained; however, the remaining key elements of the program are required to be implemented.

If the health service does choose to audit compliance, it is recommended that auditing takes place where there is high activity and risk to patients (e.g. ECT centres, immunisation clinics, and treatment or procedure rooms).

Rationale:

Auditing in low risk settings results in a small number of 'Moments' being observed and resources required to undertake auditing may be better utilised measuring other aspects of a hand hygiene program e.g. product placement, education etc. In addition, when data is used for comparison, it is important to note that a higher number of 'Moments' audited will generate a more reliable compliance rate.



¹ Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. 2nd ed. Sydney: ACSQHC; 2017