

Infection Control at Royal District Nursing Service

RDNS is committed to an infection control program to aid the effective prevention, monitoring and control of infection within its services.

Infection control refers to the development of a comprehensive set of processes and practices that are safe for staff, clients and the community and prevent infection transmission.

RDNS employs a senior Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) to manage and consult on infection control for professional practising nurses. This role develops infection control programs relevant to population demographics, the environment and the services offered rather than delivering direct care to RDNS' clients.

The continuing importance of the infection control CNC role is determined by changes to Australia's healthcare system where shorter hospital stays lead to more complex health care being carried out in the home.

The infection control CNC develops and promotes infection control policies and procedures for the staff specific to the services and resources available in home healthcare, and are based on relevant legislative requirements, standards and codes of practice.

- Hospital infection control strategies cannot always be incorporated into home healthcare without modification.

The infection control CNC coordinates and monitors occupational health strategies and initiates appropriate responses to occupational incidents.

The infection control CNC conducts infection control surveillance activities, reviews the effectiveness of control measures and adaptiveness to changing local circumstances to reduce the incidence and risk of preventable healthcare-associated infections.

The infection control CNC also provides consultation services and formal education to external healthcare service providers and others as requested on a fee for service basis through the RDNS Helen Macpherson Smith Institute for Community Health.

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