

Infection control policies

Practices must have a documented infection control policy. This could be a section of practice's overall policies and procedures manual, or it might be a separate manual completely.

RACGP 4th Edition Standards

- ¶ 5.3.3B Our practice has a written, practice specific policy that outlines our infection control processes.

Assessment methods

- Document review of practice procedures

The practice will have a written infection control policy.

- Interviews with GPs and practice staff

GPs and practice staff will be able to demonstrate to surveyors how they access written infection control policies, and be able to describe how they adhere to each relevant infection control process.

Meeting the Standards

Infection control policies should be specific to each practice's circumstances, however the written policy must include:

- Immunisation policies for staff working within the practice, in accordance with recommendations in the current *Australian Immunisation Handbook*;
- Pathology testing done within the practice, such as determining immunity;
- The appropriate use and application of standard and transmission based precautions;
- Sharps injury management;
- Blood and body substance spills management;
- Hand hygiene;
- Environmental cleaning of both clinical and non-clinical areas of the practice;
- Aseptic and sterile procedures for disposable instruments and/or instruments sterilised onsite or offsite. If sterilisation is performed onsite, the policy needs to include the procedure for instrument reprocessing, sterilisation and validation process. If sterilisation is performed offsite, the policy needs to include evidence of the validation process and appropriate and safe transport arrangements;
- Waste management, including the safe storage and disposal of clinical waste and sharps; and
- Access for patients and staff to personal protective equipment and evidence of education on the appropriate application, removal and disposal of personal protective equipment.

