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| Non-Emergency Patient Transport Licence Application:Infection Prevention and Control Requirements |

# Form 12: Infection Prevention and Control Requirements

## Executive Summary

All Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) service providers requiring licensing under the *Ambulance Service Act 1982* are to comply with the standards specified under the *Ambulance Service Act 1982* and their licence conditions. For infection prevention and control this is in accordance with the *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (2010)* developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council in collaboration with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

This document provides guidance for NEPT services to ensure appropriate evidence is supplied to support the licensing process. The infection control policy and procedure documents supplied by new applicants and existing NEPT licensee will be assessed by the Tasmanian Infection Prevention and Control Unit (TIPCU). TIPCU may request changes to documents or for additional documents to be developed.

## Disclaimer

This process includes assessment and review of documents by TIPCU that are provided by new applicants applying for a licence under the *Ambulance Service Act 1982*, or for an existing NEPT licensee applying for renewal of their licence or licence variation that may involve revisions of current infection prevention and control policies and/or requirements. This process does not involve vehicle inspection or auditing of NEPT service providers.

# Infection Control Requirements

NEPT services must provide of the following documentation to support their service’s infection prevention and control (IP&C) program. Documents need to be provided with the licence application and with any application for service change (if applicable) prior to the issuing of a licence, or licence amendment. These include the documents in Appendix 2 - Applicant Checklist for TIPCU.

## Policy

Infection prevention and control policy (or policy statement providing overarching direction for staff regarding IP&C requirements for the NEPT service)

### Procedures / protocols

* Standard precautions incorporating a section on each of the following for in accordance with service scope, (as applicable)
	+ Hand hygiene
	+ Personal protective equipment
	+ Sharps handling and disposal
	+ Environmental cleaning
	+ Reprocessing of reusable equipment
	+ Single-use items
	+ Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
	+ Waste management
	+ Linen management
* Prevention and management of occupational exposure to blood and body substances
* Staff immunisation

#### Additional procedures depending on NEPT service provision:

* Transmission-based precautions (as appropriate for transport of patients from one healthcare site to another)
* Surveillance and reporting of data
* Reporting of communicable and notifiable diseases

#### Notes:

All policies and procedure must be:

* consistent with the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infections in Health Care
* include a date of effect and revision date

For further guidance on developing these policies and procedures, see Appendix 1 - Resources.

For further enquires contact the Regulation Unit on 03 6166 3856 or at NEPT@health.tas.gov.au.

# Appendix 1 - Resources

**General**

*Ambulance Service Act 1982* and its Regulations

Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) home page <http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/>

*Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (2010)* <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/node/30290>

Australian Standards (2006) *AS 4815: 2006 Office-based health care facilities – Reprocessing of reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment.*

Australian Standards (2014) *AS4187: 2014 Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices in Health Service Organisations.*

Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment (2007) *Approved Management Method for Clinical and Related Waste*, Tasmanian Government.

Tasmanian Infection Prevention and Control Unit (TIPCU) <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/tasmanian_infection_prevention_and_control_unit>

**Infection prevention and control education modules**

ACSQHC orientation package for healthcare workers <http://education.safetyandquality.gov.au/login.php>

Tasmanian Infection Prevention and Control Unit (TIPCU): eLearning Infection Prevention and Control Series, Personal Protective Equipment Demonstration videos
<http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/tasmanian_infection_prevention_and_control_unit>

**Hand hygiene**

Hand Hygiene Australia <http://www.hha.org.au/home.aspx>

World Health Organisation (WHO) Clean Care is Safer Care <http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/index.html>

**Outbreak management**

Influ-Info Influenza Kit for Aged Care
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-publicat-influinfo.htm>

Gastro-Info Gastroenteritis Kit for Aged Care <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-publicat-gastro-kit.htm>

Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) public health guidelines for management of gastroenteritis outbreaks due to suspected norovirus (see Appendix 5) <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdna-norovirus.htm>

**Surveillance**

National Communicable Disease surveillance: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/cda-cdna-index.htm>
<http://www9.health.gov.au/cda/source/cda-index.cfm>

**Notifiable Diseases - Public Health Tasmania**

<http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/infectious_diseases_communicable_diseases>

# Appendix 2 - Applicant Checklist for TIPCU

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| NEPT Service Name: |  |
| Contact:  |  |

| Document name | Required | Included Yes / No |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Infection control policy | Mandatory |  |
| Standard precautions procedure/protocolThe following elements (as applicable) must be addressed within one protocol or as separate documentsHand hygienePersonal protective equipmentSharps handling and disposal of sharpsEnvironmental cleaningReprocessing of reusable equipmentSingle-use itemsRespiratory hygiene and cough etiquetteWaste managementLinen management | Mandatory (as applicable) |  |
| Prevention and management of occupational exposure to blood and body substances procedure/protocol | Mandatory |  |
| Staff immunisation procedure/protocol | Mandatory |  |
| Transmission-based precautions | As applicable |  |
| Surveillance and reporting of data procedure/protocol | Depends on service |  |
| Exposure-prone procedures procedure/protocol | Depends on service |  |