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## SECTION 1: VICNISS – AN OVERVIEW

### 1.1. What is VICNISS?

VICNISS is a healthcare-associated infection (HAI) surveillance system based on the US NHSN system<sup>1</sup>.

### 1.2. Introduction

In 2000, the Victorian Government's infection control plan included establishment of a surveillance system for hospital-acquired infections<sup>2</sup>.

In 2002, the Victorian Department of Health funded the establishment of an independent Coordinating Centre, to provide advice and support for VICNISS.

### 1.3. Objectives of VICNISS

The objectives of VICNISS are:

- To promote a standardised validated approach to HAI surveillance methods.
- To provide aggregated risk-adjusted data on HAIs which enables health services to benchmark against aggregated state and international data.
- To promote the use of evidence based information to permit timely recognition of HAIs for prevention, early intervention and cost containment.
- To improve the way surveillance results are used by individual hospitals and across health services.
- To promote the integration of HAI surveillance (including routine data collection) with strategic planning and continuous quality improvement systems for infection control.
- To promote consumer participation in the development of HAI performance measure reporting.

### 1.4. Activities of the VICNISS Coordinating Centre

In order to meet above objectives the VICNISS Coordinating Centre will:

- Assist hospitals in developing and implementing standardised validated surveillance methods.
- Collect specified surveillance data from health care facilities.
- Analyse and report risk adjusted HAI aggregated data.
- Conduct collaborative research studies to:
  - Describe the epidemiology of emerging infections and pathogens;
  - Assess the importance of potential risk factors;
  - Further characterise healthcare-associated pathogens and resistance mechanisms;
  - Evaluate alternative surveillance and prevention strategies.
- Provide reports on deliverables to all key stakeholders via the VICNISS Advisory Committee.

## 1.5. VICNISS Surveillance Programs

All Victorian public and some private hospitals participate in VICNISS.

There are two main surveillance options, as follows:

### Type 1 Surveillance Program

Based on established NHSN methodology for SSI, ICU/Neonatal (NNL) and outpatient haemodialysis surveillance.

Hospitals of less than 100 beds or low surgical throughput are generally excluded.

This Manual deals exclusively with Type 1 surveillance.

### Type 2 Surveillance Program

For hospitals with <100 acute care beds. Developed and evaluated in consultation with key stakeholders and includes targeted process indicators and other approaches such as reporting of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) and Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). (Refer to the [VICNISS Type 2 Surveillance Manual](#) on the VICNISS website for further information on this program).

## 1.6. VICNISS Surveillance Components

Listed below are the modules available for Type 1 surveillance. Modules may be used singly or simultaneously. Further information (including instructions, standardised surveillance methods, definitions and data collection forms) for each module is available on the VICNISS website.

- [Surgical Site Infection \(SSI\)](#)
- [Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infection \(CLABSI\)](#) (ICU & NNL)
- [Peripheral Line Associated Bloodstream Infection \(PLABSI\)](#) (NNL only)
- [Ventilator Associated Pneumonia \(VAP\)](#) (ICU only)
- [Central Line Insertion Practices \(CLIP\) Adherence Monitoring](#)
- [Staphylococcus aureus Bacteraemia \(SAB\)](#)
- [Clostridium difficile Infection \(CDI\)](#)
- [Haemodialysis Event \(HDE\)](#)
- [Hand Hygiene Initiative \(HH\)](#)
- [Healthcare Worker Influenza Vaccination Compliance](#)

## 1.7. VICNISS Data Transfer and Reporting Requirements

Data transfer may occur via:

- Hard copy of VICNISS surveillance forms (fax, post, or scan to VICNISS); or
- Electronic format (from hospital internal database) using email or other methods to the VCC.
- Online data collection form (web form). Refer to the [Web Based Data Collection Forms User Guide](#) on the VICNISS website.
- Specialised surveillance software (SHIINE) is currently being rolled out to Type 1 hospitals.
- Hand Hygiene data is entered into the [Hand Hygiene Compliance Application](#) (HHCApp).

## References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Manual. Patient Safety Component Protocol. 2010 [www.cdc.gov/nhsn/TOC\\_PSCManual.html](http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/TOC_PSCManual.html) (last accessed Nov 2010).
2. Department of Health, Victoria. Guidelines for infection control strategic management planning - Appendix 1: Victoria's 5 Point Infection Control Strategy. 2000 [www.health.vic.gov.au/infectionprevention/publications/guidelines/appendix\\_1.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectionprevention/publications/guidelines/appendix_1.htm).