



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of National Guard - Health Affairs
Infection Prevention & Control Program

The GCC Infection Prevention *and* Control Manual

3rd Edition



GCC CENTRE FOR INFECTION CONTROL
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL GUARD - HEALTH AFFAIRS



مجلس الصحة
للدول مجلس التعاون
Gulf Health Council

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Gulf Cooperation Council – Centre for Infection Control
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

L.D no. 1430/64
ISBN: 978-603-90062-1-3

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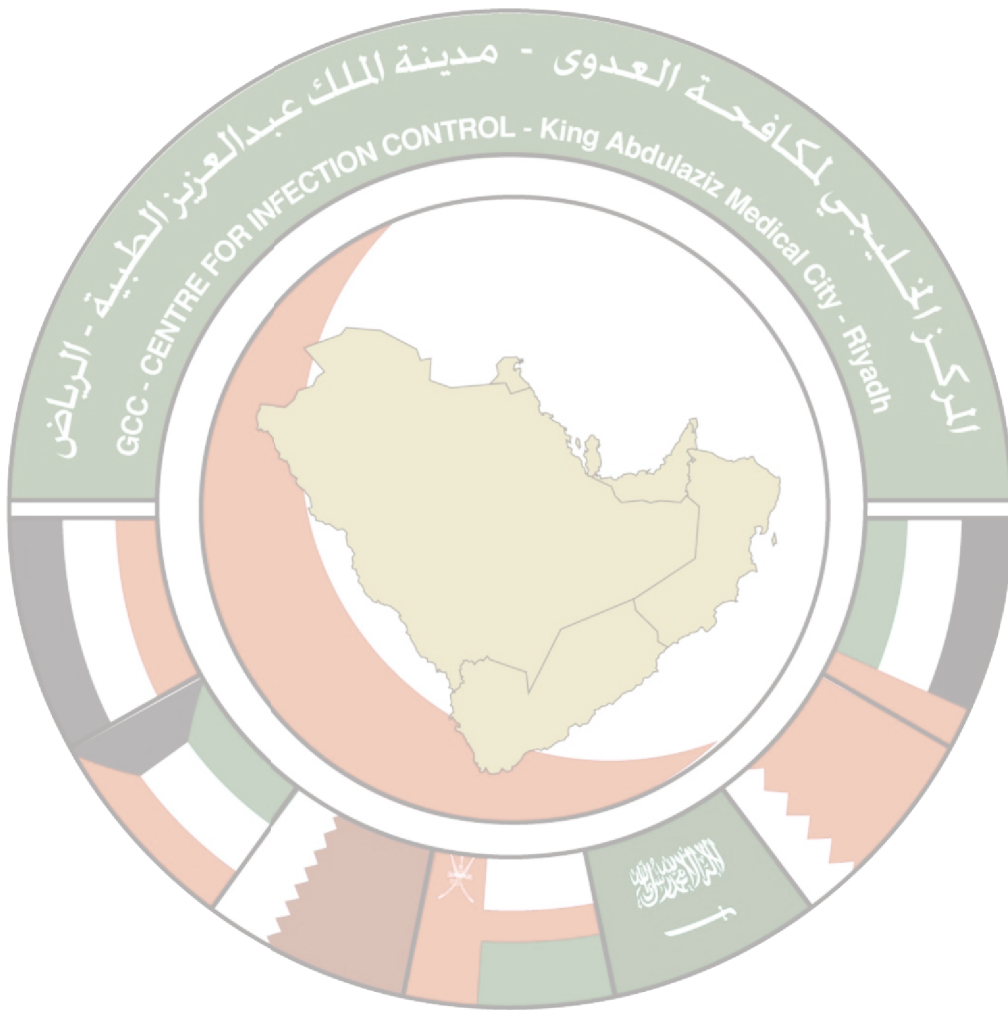
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**In the name of God,
Most Gracious, Most Merciful**



MESSAGE

from the **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

It is with utmost enthusiasm that I would like to congratulate all members of the GCC Centre for Infection Control (CIC) on the release of the third (3rd) edition of the Infection Prevention & Control Manual. This has been a successful journey for the GCC-CIC Team as they have established a truly helpful, effective, and comprehensive manual touching the core of patient safety. The Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs' King Abdulaziz Medical City in Riyadh continues to host and support the GCC Centre for Infection Control and will provide in its full capacity the assistance needed for the member countries to achieve their goals.

This updated third edition of the Infection Prevention & Control Manual is an invaluable publication that provides a huge resource for all infection control preventionists and healthcare facilities to significantly improve the quality, well-being, and patient safety of all.

We are proud of such an accomplishment borne out of the collaborative efforts among GCC States.

I would like to extend my gratitude to each and everyone on the GCC-CIC Advisory Board and their staff for their continuing efforts and contributions that have resulted in the commendable success of the GCC Centre for Infection Control.



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FOREWORD

In all humility, we acknowledge Your aid, O Allah. Without your guidance, love and cause, this humble contribution would never become a reality.

It is with immense pleasure that we present the third (3rd) edition of the GHC-Centre for Infection Control (CIC) Infection Prevention & Control Manual. This 3rd Edition had been duly reviewed and adopted by the recent Advisory Board of the Gulf Health Council (Centre for Infection Control GHC-CIC).

Designed to give up-to-date guidelines for the GCC States, this manual provides evidence-based infection control practices for all healthcare settings. The consistent application of proper infection control principles and practices in all healthcare activities is necessary to achieve the goals of optimum patient safety and ensure best outcomes.

These policies and procedures when incorporated into the fabric of each healthcare facility functions should yield a healthy and safe environment for patients, staff, and visitors.

The Gulf Health Council wishes to encourage its members to continue to strive for excellence in the prevention of healthcare associated infections and improved safety for all who interface with its healthcare facilities through partnership activities.

In conclusion, I ask the Almighty Allah to well accept this deed and make it purely for Him. Allah is the Guidance to the Straight Path.



Sulaiman Al Dakheel
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PREFACE

The necessity for robust hospital and community based infection control programs around the world has become obvious for the subsistence of modern medicine. Healthcare facilities serve as a platform for the emergence of bacterial resistance and a cradle for infection transmission. This comes as no surprise, especially with overcrowded healthcare facilities and the difficulty for healthcare systems to keep up with the large demand for patient care.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been in the limelight for some time now. Stronger, more resistant superbugs have emerged, such as Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE). Variations in mechanisms of resistance, sprouting from the diversity and complexity of resistance genes, unclear and varied transmission patterns, and the inability to identify proper cohorting policies, is like nothing we have ever seen before.

In 2014, for the first time in two decades, Ebola has caused a global threat and led to a major alert, instigating the public health community to react. The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) was established and the enforcement of International Health Regulations (IHR) had never been stronger. In 2012, a new corona virus emerged, the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS CoV), here on our own Arabian Peninsula, and mobilized a vigorous movement to enhance infection control practices, not only in the Gulf Health Council (GHC) countries but around the world. Establishing and sustaining infection control programs has made it as one of the top priorities for healthcare systems worldwide.

The GHC countries have acknowledged the importance of implementing and auditing infection control practices as a necessity to ensure Global Biosecurity. We here introduce the third edition of the GCC Infection Control Manual, where the policies were revised and updated, and new policies introduced to address the new challenges we face.

We hope that more and more healthcare settings will adopt the standard infection control practices with patient safety as a top priority. Further revisions and policy addition will continue to unfold as we go along together on this journey for patient care.



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Gulf Cooperation Council-Center for Infection Control (GCC-CIC) Mission Statement

CORE VALUE

Do No Harm

VISION

Healthcare systems (in the Gulf States and beyond) without infections, supported by robust infection prevention and control programs, based on evidence and international best practices, reflecting the global biosecurity agenda mandate, and moving the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) agenda forward through effective regional liaising and networking.

MISSION

To contribute to the regional and international leadership in mitigating healthcare associated infections and potential infectious threats of devastating economic impact and human loss. Our approach is scientific, evidence based when available, and consultative; as we provide new findings, concepts and practices. The aspired outcomes are not limited to enhancing patient safety but to establish the wellbeing of the population as a whole; including healthcare providers, visitors and sitters, and in the larger picture to maintain **Global Biosecurity**.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Short Term:

1. Head and lead the regional antimicrobial resistance (AMR) agenda.
2. Prevent and mitigate the risk of outbreaks in the region and its global transmission, specifically related to MERS-CoV.
3. Minimize healthcare associated infections in patients, visitors and staff members at all levels of healthcare facilities.
4. Align and unify the surveillance practices to establish and strengthen the benchmark process for healthcare associated infections in the region.
5. Enhance the networking process among the experts nationally and regionally and connect with global entities and experts in the field.
6. Provide a global model(s) from the region in hospital based infection control best practices.
7. Share challenges and successes in mitigating healthcare associated infections.

Long Term:

1. Sustain infection prevention and control as an autonomous entity and a cornerstone for hospital and community healthcare services at the highest standards. **(An imminent and continuous agenda item).**
2. Support a research culture that will enhance collaboration in addressing pressing research questions relevant to the field in the region; with a focus on collaboration with academic and research centers.
3. Support "Centers of Excellence in Infection Control" within the region with a focus on either:
 - a. Excellence in infection control practices;
 - b. Infection control training and development;
 - c. Infection control research; or a combination of any.
4. Develop a granting process to be awarded for research or training development relevant to the field of Infection Prevention and Control.

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Introduction: User Guide

As a reference guide for easy use of this revised manual, we would like to introduce you to the following modifications made on the new policy titles, as well as, additional new policies updating the previous editions, particularly:

SECTION	PAGE	OLD TITLE	NEW TITLE
ICM-V-01	132	Tuberculin Skin Testing: Administration and Interpretation	Diagnosing Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI): Tuberculin Skin Testing or Interferon-Gamma Release Assays (IGRAs)
ICM-V-05	145	Tracing Contacts of Infectious Tuberculosis other than Healthcare Workers	Tracing Contacts of Infectious Mycobacterium Tuberculosis for Non-Healthcare Workers
ICM-VIII-05	266	Ophthalmology & Clinics	Ophthalmology Services & Clinics
ICM-IX-02	333	Waste Management	Management of Infectious Waste
ICM-X-09	381	Infection Prevention and Control Procedures for Hospital and Healthcare Facility Construction and Renovation	Construction and Renovation Measures in the Healthcare Facility

The following new policies were added in this revised manual:

SECTION	PAGE	NEW POLICY TITLE
ICM-I-06	10	Infection Prevention and Control Core Components
ICM-II-07	34	Annual Infection Control Competency Training for all Healthcare Workers "Right care Right now"
ICM-III-12	79	Management of Influx of Airborne Infectious Diseases
ICM-IV-11	121	<i>Clostridium Difficile</i> Management
ICM-IV-12	126	<i>Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)</i> Management and Patient Transfer
ICM-IV-13	129	Management of Patients in Isolation in the Operating Room
ICM-VII-04	208	Management of Sharps Injury and Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens
ICM-VII-08	237	Antimicrobial Stewardship Program
ICM-VIII-12	302	Ambulatory Care
ICM-VIII-13	307	Emergency Medical Services/Ambulance Services
ICM-VIII-14	312	Home Care
ICM-VIII-15	314	Interventional Radiology and Radiation Oncology
ICM-VIII-16	318	Laboratory Services
ICM-X-10	392	Multidisciplinary Environmental Rounds (MDER)
ICM-X-11	395	Prevention of Legionella in the Healthcare Setting