



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia
NSW Branch

NSW Pharmacy Needle and Syringe Program

RESOURCE MANUAL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch) administers the NSW Pharmacy Needle and Syringe Program which is fully funded by the NSW Ministry of Health.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO NEEDLE AND SYRINGE PROGRAMS

The Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) is an evidence-based public health program that aims to reduce the incidence of blood borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis C and injecting related injuries and diseases among people who inject drugs. The program supplies sterile injecting equipment to people who inject drugs with the aim of ensuring users do not share needles, thus reducing the spread of blood borne viruses within the wider community.

The principles of harm minimisation underpin Australia's national drug strategy¹. The harm minimisation approach considers the impact of the use of alcohol and other drugs on both the individual and the community, addressing the health, social and economic consequences².

The harm minimisation framework encompasses three pillars²:

- **Supply reduction** - to prevent, reduce or disrupt the production and supply of prohibited drugs.
- **Demand reduction** - to prevent the uptake and/or delay the onset of harmful drug use, including abstinence orientated strategies and access to treatment to reduce drug use.
- **Harm reduction** - to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of drug-related harm on individuals and communities.

To achieve the **aim and objective** of the NSP in NSW, the following strategies are utilised:

- distribution of **sterile injecting equipment**
- provision of sterile injecting equipment through a **variety of** locations and types of **outlets**
- provision of **condoms** and lubricant
- promotion of **safe disposal**, including the collection and disposal of used injecting equipment
- development and delivery of **education programs**, including peer education programs
- provision of **information and referrals** to other health and welfare services

NSW PHARMACY NEEDLE AND SYRINGE PROGRAM

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch) administers the NSW Pharmacy Needle and Syringe Program, which is funded by the NSW Ministry of Health.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has consistently demonstrated support for the principle of harm minimisation through the provision of sterile needle and syringe equipment, opioid dependent treatment programs, and safe disposal strategies. **The community pharmacy network represents over fifty per cent of outlets across Australia, making a significant contribution to the prevention of blood borne diseases in the community.**

¹ Anex (2012), Australian Drug Policy: harm reduction and 'new recovery' (Discussion Paper: Draft for Consultation). Anex, Melbourne, Australia

² Ritter A, Lancaster K, Grech K, Reuter P (2011) Monograph No. 21: An assessment of illicit drug policy in Australia (1985-2010): Themes and trends. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

PROVIDING OF STERILE INJECTING EQUIPMENT - FITPACKS

Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) outlets must supply injecting equipment with a safe disposal container.

Fitpacks are containers which can be used as both storage and disposal containers for injecting equipment. These containers are able to 'lock in' used needles and syringe, preventing both re-use and inappropriate disposal³.

Registered Pharmacy NSP outlets are provided Fitpacks at no cost for sale to clients. The pharmacy should supply Fitpacks at a standard fee.

PNSP outlets should make available information around safe injecting drug use, and to facilitate the referral to other healthcare professionals, upon request or where appropriate.

Ordering of Sterile Injecting Equipment

Fitpacks are able to be ordered through NSW pharmacy wholesalers at no cost to the pharmacy.

The following information is provided for your reference (information as at 23rd February 2022):

| Product Description | 1 carton contains | ASP Healthcare | Sigma | API | Symbion |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|--------|---------|
| 3 pack Terumo 27g 1mL | 100 units | DS-022 | 10012212 | 227390 | 069418 |
| 3 pack BD 29g 1mL | 100 units | DS-005 | 10012213 | 227412 | 069469 |
| 5 pack Terumo 27g 1mL | 20 units | DS-017 | 10012214 | 228273 | 069477 |
| 5 pack BD 29g 1mL | 20 units | DS-019 | 10012215 | 228281 | 069485 |
| 10 pack Terumo 27g 1mL | 10 units | DS-027 | 10011663 | 228303 | 069426 |
| 10 pack BD 29g 1mL | 10 units | DS-029 | 10012207 | 228311 | 069434 |

If a wholesaler is out of stock or the pharmacy is serviced by wholesaler based in another state, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch) can facilitate the ordering process on behalf of your pharmacy.

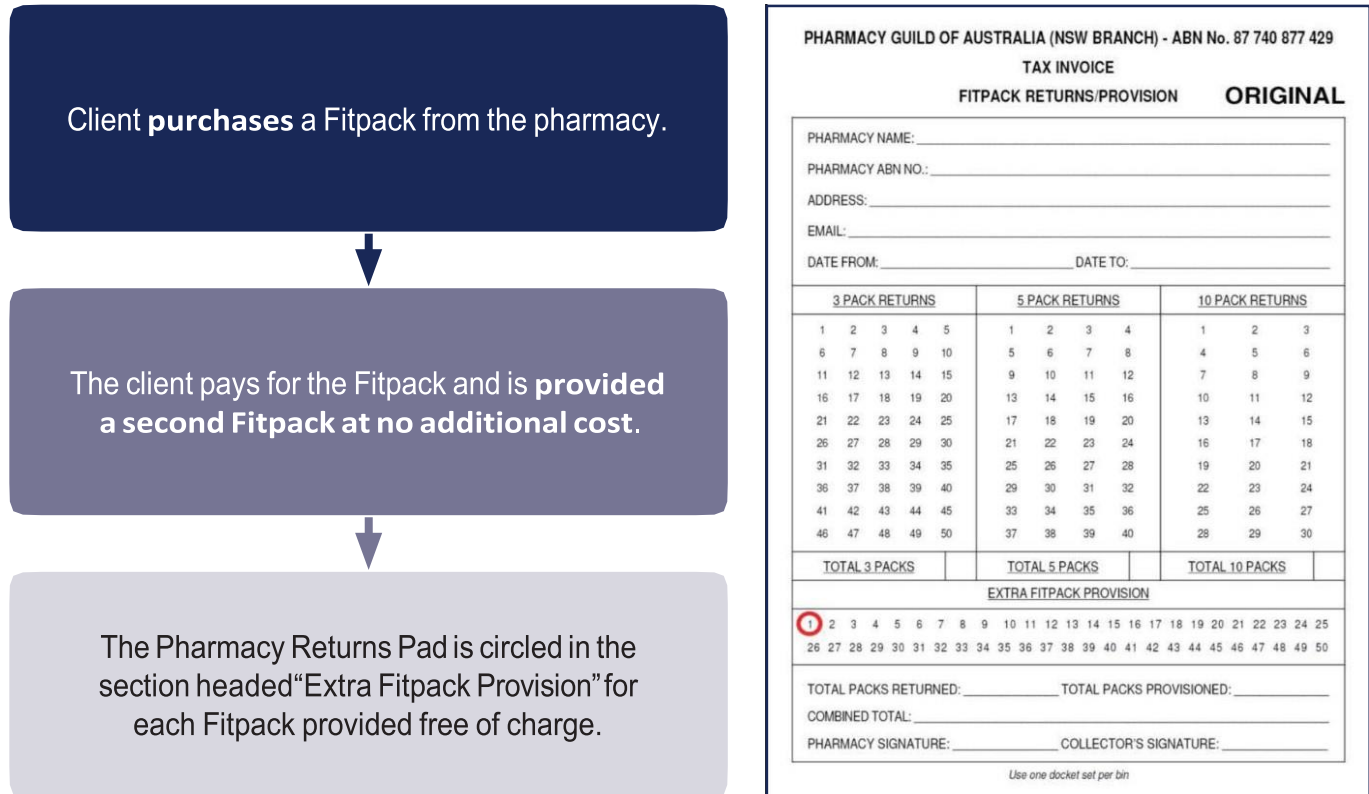
Please complete the Fitpack Order Form available on the NSW Branch website in the Professional Services section or contact the Guild at healthservices@nsw.guild.org.au or (02) 9467-7100.

³ Dolan, K., Dillon, P. & Silins, E. 2005. Needle and syringe programs: Your questions answered. Canberra, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

BONUS FITPACK INITIATIVE

The NSW Government is committed to reducing the sharing of injecting equipment amongst people who inject drugs. This commitment is supported by PNSPs through the Bonus Fitpack Initiative.

Selling a Fitpack – Bonus Initiative



PHARMACY GUILD OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) - ABN No. 87 740 877 429
TAX INVOICE
FITPACK RETURNS/PROVISION ORIGINAL

PHARMACY NAME: _____
 PHARMACY ABN NO.: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 DATE FROM: _____ DATE TO: _____

| 3 PACK RETURNS | | | | | 5 PACK RETURNS | | | | 10 PACK RETURNS | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|-----------------|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| TOTAL 3 PACKS | TOTAL 5 PACKS | TOTAL 10 PACKS | | | | | | | | | |

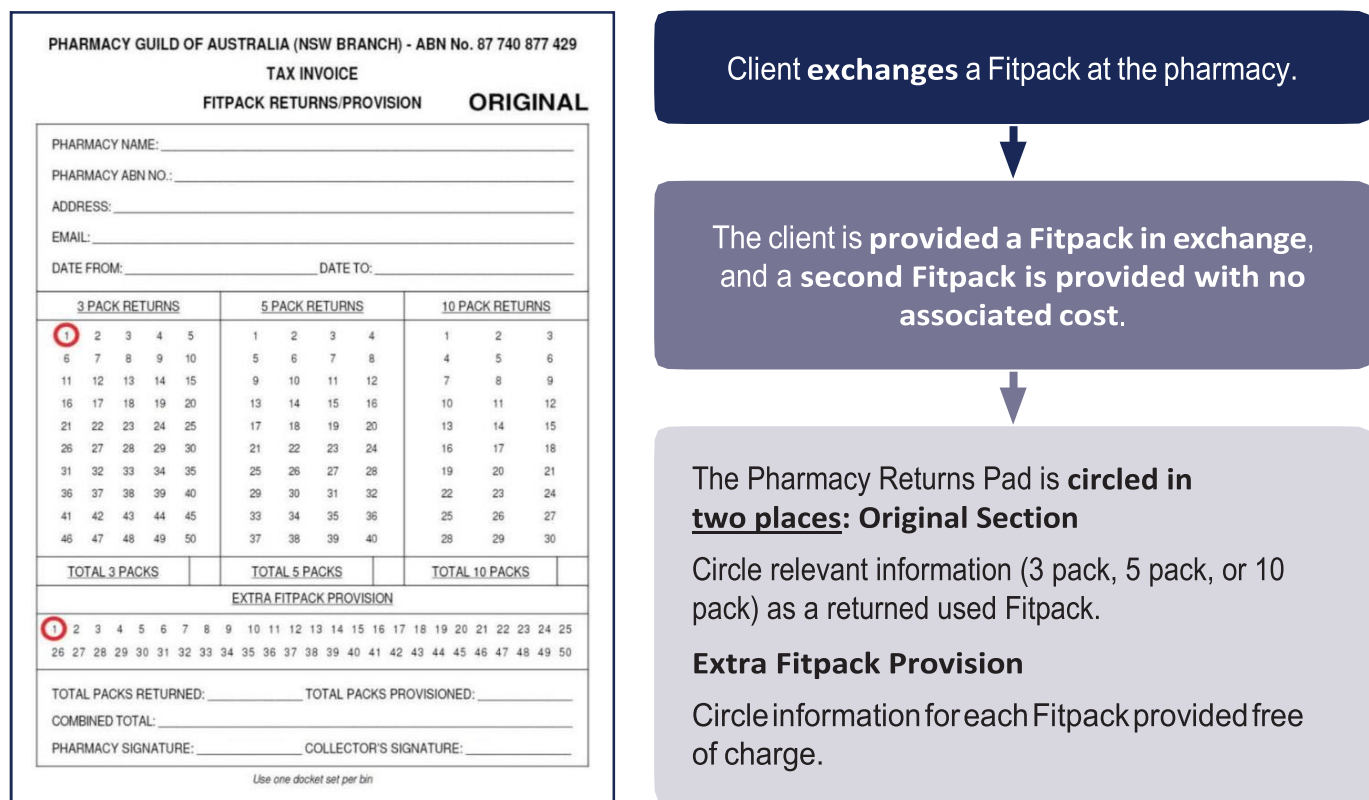
EXTRA FITPACK PROVISION

① 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

TOTAL PACKS RETURNED: _____ TOTAL PACKS PROVIDED: _____
 COMBINED TOTAL: _____
 PHARMACY SIGNATURE: _____ COLLECTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

Use one docket set per bin

Exchanging a Fitpack – Bonus Initiative



PHARMACY GUILD OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) - ABN No. 87 740 877 429
TAX INVOICE
FITPACK RETURNS/PROVISION ORIGINAL

PHARMACY NAME: _____
 PHARMACY ABN NO.: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 DATE FROM: _____ DATE TO: _____

| 3 PACK RETURNS | | | | | 5 PACK RETURNS | | | | 10 PACK RETURNS | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|-----------------|----|--|
| ① 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 13 | 14 | 15 | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 16 | 17 | 18 | |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 19 | 20 | 21 | |
| 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 25 | 26 | 27 | |
| 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| TOTAL 3 PACKS | TOTAL 5 PACKS | TOTAL 10 PACKS | | | | | | | | | |

EXTRA FITPACK PROVISION

① 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

TOTAL PACKS RETURNED: _____ TOTAL PACKS PROVIDED: _____
 COMBINED TOTAL: _____
 PHARMACY SIGNATURE: _____ COLLECTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

Use one docket set per bin

RECEIPT AND DISPOSAL OF USED FITPACKS

The Fitpack disposal bin is provided free of charge to participating program pharmacies.

The disposal unit should be located in a secure area of the pharmacy, which is not accessible by children. Ideally, pharmacy staff should not have direct contact with used Fitpacks during exchange or return. A plastic bag may be used to carry a used Fitpack to the disposal bin if it is placed outside of public access.

The return of used Fitpacks should be presented in a rigid-walled, puncture resistant container sealed with the lid. **No loose sharps should be accepted for placement in the disposal bin.**

Understanding and following a hand hygiene procedure should be undertaken at all times by participating pharmacy staff members.

Pharmacy staff members should also take the opportunity to encourage the continued use of appropriate equipment to aid ongoing safe Fitpack disposal. This can be through asking the customer if they have an adequate supply of appropriate sharps disposal containers, and to provide these resources where requested.

COLLECTION AND REPLACEMENT OF SHARPS DISPOSAL BINS

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch) has engaged with approved contractors to collect and replace Fitpack disposal bins at participating PNSP outlets.

Collection and replacement of the Fitpack disposal bin occurs at the same time (direct swap). The contractor will bring a replacement bin to the store on the day of collection.

Each participating Pharmacy NSP outlet is serviced on an agreed interval. Disposal bins should be emptied at intervals such that they are never more than 75% full.

To amend this interval, or to arrange an out of cycle collection, please lodge a collection request with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch) by contacting us at healthservices@nsw.guild.org.au or (02) 9467 7100.

Pharmacy staff members should not ring the phone number listed on the bin to arrange collection.

INFORMATION – PROGRAM INCENTIVES

Under the NSW Pharmacy Needle and Syringe Program, participating program pharmacies may be eligible to receive the following program incentives, subject to satisfactorily meeting program requirements.

The NSW PNSP is fully funded by the NSW Ministry of Health and is administered by The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch).

Program Participation – New NSP

Community pharmacies which are entering the Scheme, may be eligible to receive a one-off introductory incentive upon registration. This program incentive is currently \$385 (GST Incl) or \$770 (GST Incl) for pharmacies in identified areas of need⁴.

Fitpack Exchange – Program Incentive

Program incentive payments are provided for each Fitpack which has been exchanged by a participating program pharmacy.

As part of the NSW Government's commitment to reduce the sharing of injecting equipment amongst people who inject drugs, a Bonus Fitpack Initiative has been introduced and is supported by PNSPs.

Please refer to the section on the Bonus Fitpack Initiative on Page 6 for more information.

Program Documentation – Incentives

The Fitpack Returns Pad is used to record the number of Fitpacks returned, as well as the number of Fitpacks provided under the bonus initiative.

A new docket should be used for each bin. **All fields on the docket should be completed** by a pharmacy staff member, and the approved contractor where applicable. **Please ensure all fields are completed.**

Completed dockets can be either given to the contractor during the bin service or sent directly to the NSW Branch of the Guild by post or email.

To order copies of this resource, please contact the Guild at healthservices@nsw.guild.org.au or (02)94677100.

PHARMACY GUILD OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) - ABN No. 87 740 877 429
TAX INVOICE
FITPACK RETURNS/PROVISION ORIGINAL

PHARMACY NAME: _____
PHARMACY ABN NO.: _____
ADDRESS: _____
EMAIL: _____
DATE FROM: _____ DATE TO: _____

| 3 PACK RETURNS | | | | | 5 PACK RETURNS | | | | | 10 PACK RETURNS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 22 | 23 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL 3 PACKS | | | | | TOTAL 5 PACKS | | | | | TOTAL 10 PACKS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EXTRA FITPACK PROVISION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| TOTAL PACKS RETURNED: _____ TOTAL PACKS PROVIDED: _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COMBINED TOTAL: _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PHARMACY SIGNATURE: _____ COLLECTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <small>Use one docket set per bin</small> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Example – Fitpack Returns Docket

⁴Information to 1st April 2022

NEEDLE STICK INJURY

In the event of a needle stick injury, the pharmacy staff member should notify their manager and follow the actions noted below.^{5,6}

The pharmacy manager should document this incident in their incident reporting system.

Available Resources:

Quality Care Pharmacy Program: www.qcpp.com

After exposure to blood or other body substances, the healthcare worker should as soon as possible do the following:

- wash the exposure site with soap and water;
- if eyes are contaminated then rinse them, while they are open, gently but thoroughly with water or normal saline;
- if blood or other body substances get in the mouth, spit them out and then rinse the mouth with water several times;
- if clothing is contaminated remove clothing and shower if necessary;
- inform an appropriate person to ensure that necessary further action is undertaken.

Where water is not available use of a non-water cleanser or antiseptic should replace the use of soap and water for washing cuts or punctures of the skin or intact skin.

Needle Clean Up Hotline

Provides information about removing discarded needles and syringes from public places.

Freecall 1800 633 353

Needlestick Injury Hotline

Provides information about what to do after a needlestick injury.

Freecall 1800 804 823

Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)

ADIS provides information, counselling, referral, and advice to anyone concerned about their own, another's alcohol, or other drug use.

Phone 02 9361 8000

Freecall 1800 422 599

⁵Pharmacy's Little Helper: Managing a needle stick injury

⁶QCPC Infection Control Guideline <https://www.qcpp.com/knowledgehub/knowledge-hub-login>