phn NORTHERN QUEENSLAND
An Australian Government Initiative

Essential policies for infection prevention in general practice and primary care settings

1. Cleaning and disinfection policy

- Frequency: Daily, between-patient, and weekly deep clean.
- Approved products: TGA-approved hospital-grade disinfectants.
- Contact time: Follow manufacturer instructions.
- Equipment: Color-coded cloths/mops for clinical vs non-clinical areas.

2. Hand hygiene policy

- World Health Organisation's 5 Moments compliance.
- Audit schedule for staff adherence.
- Clear guidance on alcohol-based rub vs soap and water.

3. Sharps disposal policy

- Immediate disposal in approved sharps containers.
- Never recap needles.
- Regular container replacement schedule.

4. Aseptic technique policy

- Required for wound care, injections, minor procedures.
- Staff training and competency checks.
- Documented sterile field setup steps.

5. Laundry and linen policy

Prefer disposable paper roll and pillow slips. If reusable linen:

- change between patients or when soiled
- handle soiled linen with PPE
- wash, dry, and store per current standards.

Onsite laundering

- Trained staff and documented process.

Offsite laundering

- Written agreements with providers.

NQPHN acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.

ISO 9001 QUALITY

Quick reminder box

- Reusable linen? Apply strict change policy or switch to disposable.
- All policies must align with RACGP's Infection Control Guidelines and AS/NZS standards.