

**Counties Manukau
District Health Board**

**Infectious Diseases Service
Health Services Plan**

February 2008

1.0 Current Service

The Infectious Diseases Service for the people of CMDHB is provided both by the CMDHB team and through CMDHB referral to ADHB specialists as the provider of regional tertiary Infectious Diseases Service. The CMDHB service includes both inpatients and outpatients, and specialist consultation is provided to both primary care and community services through Public Health Specialists as required.

Currently the Infectious Diseases service provides consultation services on referral from other services. Most patients remain under the care of the referring service (e.g. respiratory/orthopaedics) with input from the team as appropriate. This model is expected to continue in the future for most inpatient groups.

Growing numbers of patients with infections will be managed in the community through the CMDHB Home IV Therapy programme. The most common conditions currently managed through this programme include:

- Complicated soft tissue
- Infected joint prosthesis
- Septic arthritis
- Osteomyelitis
- Infected Endocarditis

The Infectious Diseases team either coordinates the patient's Home IV Therapy programme through the District Nursing Service, or provides support/advice to the treating specialty team when they require continued follow-up by the treating secondary team. Home IV Therapy with its resultant reduction in inpatient bed days is well received by both patients and staff.

In addition to the management of individual patients, the Infectious Diseases service plays a vital role in the management of the clinical infrastructure at CMDHB.

The Infectious Diseases clinical team is responsible for Infection Control throughout CMDHB including the management of the Infection Control Committee. This includes being involved in the prevention and/or management of outbreaks of virulent antibiotic resistant organisms (e.g. MRSA) by ensuring that preventative infection control practices are in place as well as in containment and treatment of outbreaks.

Through their involvement in pharmacy guidelines and by providing clinical support around appropriate antibiotic prescribing, Infectious Disease plays an important role in minimizing antibiotic resistance within the DHB.

CMDHB employees are exposed to a high level of risk of contracting an Infectious Disease, and the Infectious Diseases Service aims to minimize this risk to staff, by manage screening of at risk situations, and supporting the Occupational Health Service for staff requiring treatment.

2.0 Key Issues

Management of virulent micro-organisms

The spread of micro-organisms within hospital environments or residential care has an adverse effect on quality and health outcomes.

3.0 Trends and Future Directions

The resurgence of Infectious Diseases

There has been an international resurgence of infectious diseases. The CMDHB Infectious Diseases service will be critical in the management of these infectious diseases particularly in regard to early detection, preventing the spread of disease, and in treating infected patients.

Growing risk of pandemics

Increased globalisation significantly increases the risk of pandemics due to the ease of spreading that is associated with rapid air travel. The location of New Zealand's major airport within the Counties Manukau catchment further exposes CMDHB to additional risk through patients who on arrival in NZ present at Middlemore Hospital with symptoms of an infectious disease. The Infectious Diseases team play a major role in the planning process to manage the risk of pandemic.

Growing resistance to antibiotics

An international increase in resistance to antibiotics necessitates further vigilance in Infection Control measures (preventative and isolation) and appropriate primary/secondary antibiotic prescribing.

Spread of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS are a particular issue in immigrant communities and with immigrants frequently settling in Counties Manukau, this is a significant issue for CMDHB.

4.0 Key Directions

Ongoing developments of the Infectious Diseases Unit at CMDHB will include the following key directions:

- ✓ *Input into facility and service design across CMDHB to facilitate robust infection control practice and support subsequent development of new Infection Control practices consistent with CMDHB facility developments.*
- ✓ *Advice on Infection Control strategies to support the introduction of new clinical services within CMDHB.*
- ✓ *Continued stewardship of antibiotics practice within Counties Manukau including the introduction of new antibiotics, guidelines, prophylaxis and restrictions.*
- ✓ *Continued development and expansion of the IV home service to include additional service areas and conditions (e.g. bronchiectasis, Pulmonary TB).*
- ✓ *Pilot innovative approaches in the management of Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP).*
- ✓ *Continued development of local HIV-AIDS services alongside Sexual Health, Public Health, and tertiary Infectious Diseases services.*