

## Pseudomonas Outbreak Checklist:

where the possible source is water or a wash-hand station from within a high-risk clinical area

<b>Define incident</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colonisation or infection of patients established, <i>or</i></li> <li>High level contamination of unit discovered (e.g. in water supply).</li> </ul>	
<b>Assess and report</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the severity of the incident using the Hospital Infection Incident Assessment Tool (HIIAT) and reported to HPS if amber or red.</li> <li>Notify HPS if there is an active ongoing clinical incident where the source is considered to be tap water, regardless of HIIAT status.</li> </ul>	
<b>Confirm current <i>Pseudomonas</i> guidelines are being followed</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flush all non-automated taps daily, first thing in the morning, at the maximum flow rate that does <b>not</b> give rise to any splashing beyond the basin. This includes flushing any taps which have been taken out of use due to contamination or suspected contamination.</li> <li>Breast milk or formula milk is being defrosted and warmed in such a way as to avoid contamination – specifically; frozen breast milk <b>must not</b> be defrosted or warmed in warm tap water.</li> <li>Ice is <b>not</b> being used for direct baby care unless clinically indicated.</li> <li>Ice being used for severely immunocompromised patients is made with sterile water and <b>not</b> from automatic ice-machines.</li> <li>Engage with the Estates Department for an assessment of the water supply fittings and fixtures.</li> </ul>	
<b>Prevent contamination/ re-contamination of sinks:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hand wash stations are only used for hand washing.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm that clinical staff are discarding patient material safely (e.g. this includes bed bath water and any ET exudates).</li> <li>Confirm domestic staff are discarding used cleaning products safely (<b>not</b> in hand wash stations or sinks).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Disinfect potentially contaminated sinks and drains with 1,000ppm av. chlorine product in line with national policy.</li> <li>Confirm domestic services are being fully compliant with the procedure for cleaning hand wash stations: Spray bottles <b>must not</b> be used.</li> <li>Discard empty hand hygiene bottles; these should never be topped-up and reused.</li> <li>Prepare and perform aseptic procedures in areas that will <b>not</b> generate splash contamination.</li> <li>Decontaminate all surfaces used for aseptic procedures (before and after) using either detergent or alcohol wipes.</li> </ul>	
<b>Implement additional precautions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) as standard for hand decontamination during incident. If hands are visibly soiled, wash with soap and water, dry then use an ABHR.</li> <li>Avoid using tap water in care of babies – e.g. use single-use wipes for washing babies.</li> </ul>	
<b>Investigate incident/outbreak, consider the following:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The patient's entire inpatient and outpatient journey for possible exposures.</li> <li>The possible routes of transmission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment-to-patient – direct contaminated water, splashes from water outlet and indirect, e.g. routes involving contaminated hands, contaminated equipment/environments</li> <li>Patient-to-patient - dissemination of pseudomonas from colonised patients to the environment or to other patients</li> <li>Review clinical procedures involving invasive devices or aseptic procedures, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e.g wound dressings, IV drug preparation/administration and care associated with direct water usage,</li> <li>e.g washing babies, warming of baby feeds/defrosting of breast milk.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Further control measures</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate or cohort neonates with <i>Pseudomonas</i> colonisation or infection (<b>not</b> necessary for adult or paediatric).</li> <li>Implement the HPS Generic Control Measure Trigger Tool if there are situations with an ongoing infection risk.</li> <li>Maintain contact with HPS.</li> </ul>	