Category: Administration			
Subject/Title: Infection Prevention & Control		**Reference Number:** BCCDC 114	
		Effective Date: November 22, 2010	
Reviewed By: BCCDC Executive Management	**Approved By:** BCCDC Executive Management	**Revision Number:** 114.1	**Revision Date:** Nov 3, 2015

SCOPE/PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear statement to all staff around their requirement for adhering to infection prevention and control practices, including basic hand hygiene procedures. It also outlines the framework supporting Infection Prevention and Control at BCCDC and solidifies BCCDC strong commitment to best practices for infection prevention and control.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The BCCDC is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all clients, visitors and staff. Although many infections transmitted to patients during their care occur in hospital, more care and procedures now take place in primary and community care settings. The term 'Health Care Associated' infection has replaced the traditional term 'Hospital Acquired' infection. The impact of infections includes both morbidity and decreased quality of life. Health care providers and clients can be exposed to infection through inadequate infection prevention and control practices.

Three levels of control should be built into programs to ensure that infection control strategies cover the hierarchy of effective control. These levels of control are engineering controls, administrative controls and personal protective measures. Infection prevention & control in ambulatory settings focuses on Routine Practices. Elements of Routine Practices include: screening clients, risk assessments, and risk reduction strategies including hand hygiene, clean equipment, clean environment and health care provider and client education.

The organization is dedicated to strengthening prevention and control of infection and minimizing the risks from infection. All staff, particularly all health care providers, have a vital part to play to help minimize the risk of infection to all staff, clients and visiting members of the public.

The associated BCCDC Infection Prevention and Control Procedure manual complements this policy and reflects national best practices.

POLICY:

All staff must adhere to this policy by following the infection prevention and control procedures as outlined in the associated BCCDC Infection Prevention & Control Procedure manual.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Client** – Any person receiving services and/or care from the BCCDC Tuberculosis (TB) or Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) clinics.
- **Hand Hygiene -** A general term referring to any action of hand cleaning. Hand hygiene relates to the removal of visible soil and removal or killing of transient microrganisms from the hands. Hand hygiene may be accomplished by hand washing or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Health Care Providers-** Any individual delivering care to a patient. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: emergency service workers, physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians and other

health professionals, personal support workers, clinical instructors, students and home health care workers. In some non-acute settings, volunteers might provide care and would be included as a health care provider.

- **Infection Prevention and Control-** Evidence-based practices and procedures that, when applied consistently in health care settings, can prevent or reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms to health care workers, other patients and visitors.

- **Health Care Associated Infection (HCAI)-** A term relating to an infection that is acquired during the delivery of health care.

- **Routine Practices-** The system of infection prevention and control practices recommended by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to be used with all clients/patients during all care to prevent and control transmission of microorganisms in all health care settings.

PROCEDURE:

It is the responsibility of the BCCDC Infection Control Committee to review and initiate necessary revisions to both the Infection Prevention and Control Procedure Manual and this policy. This will be based on collaboration and input by and through the PHSA Infection Prevention and Control Service. Administrative and technical management of the manual is the responsibility of the PHSA Infection Prevention and Control Service. Likewise the responsibility for administrative and technical management of this policy lies with BC Centre for Disease Control Administration.

REFERENCES:

Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (CCAR). Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Long Term Care, Home and Community Care including Health Care Offices and Ambulatory Clinics. 2007

Accreditation Canada. Required Organizational Practices Handbook. 2010

The World Health Organization. "Clean care is Safer Care". The World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/> (28 September, 2010)

Provincial Infection Control Network BC (PIC-Net). PICNet Reference for Respiratory Outbreak Prevention & Control Guidelines. 2007

Provincial Diseases advisory Committee (PIDAC). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings. , August , 2009.