Public Health Policy Framework

1. Policy framework statement

The Public Health Policy Framework specifies the public health requirements that all Health Service Providers (HSPs) must comply with in order to ensure effective and consistent public health service across the WA health system.

Public health is the organised response by society to protect and promote health, and to prevent illness, injury and disability. The starting point for identifying public health issues, problems and priorities, and for designing and implementing interventions, is the population as a whole, or population sub-groups. Public health complements and works with clinical care to mitigate the demand for health services.

2. Purpose

The Director General (DG) of the Department of Health is the System Manager responsible for the overall management, strategic direction and stewardship of the WA health system. The DG will use policy frameworks to ensure a consistent approach to a range of matters undertaken by HSPs. Policy Frameworks must be complied with and implemented as part of ongoing operations.

The purpose of this policy framework is to ensure:

- the prevention of disease before it occurs
- the control of infectious disease transmission
- the prevention of the development of complications of chronic disease
- to promote and protect the health status of all Western Australians
- the management of risk, whether natural or man-made
- to identify and respond to opportunities to reduce inequities in health status.

This policy framework encompasses seven broad public health areas:

1. Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
2. Communicable Disease Control
3. Environmental Health Management
4. Disaster Preparedness and Management
5. Genomics and Screening
6. Medicines and Poisons Management

3. Applicability

This policy framework is binding on each HSP to which it applies or relates.

4. Principles

The key principles that underpin this policy framework are:
Consistency
Consistent and compliant with relevant State and National legislation and policies.

Evidence-based and accessible
Publicly accessible and informed by research and evidence.

Integrity
To be straightforward and honest in all professional and business relationships.

Objectivity
The requirement to be precise, unbiased, open, honest and receptive to criticism. Bias, conflict of interest or undue influence of others must not override professional or business judgements.

Population-focused
Promoting health and preventing disease before it occurs in the wider community.

Risk management
The organisation identifies and manages its risks. Each organisation has a distinct risk profile. Identifying its particular risk exposure and developing and implementing risk prevention and remediation plans is critical to ensure the organisation can operate effectively and efficiently to achieve its goals.

5. Legislative context
The Health Services Act 2016 refers to policy frameworks in ss. 26-27 and s. 34(2)(c).

The legislation below, may also apply:

- Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cwlth)
- Contaminated Site Act 2003
- Emergency Management Act 2005
- Food Act 2008
- Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911
- Health Professionals (Special Events Exemption) Act 2000
- Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927
- Medicines and Poisons Act 2014
- National Health Security Act 2007 (Cwlth)
- OHS Act 1984
- Pharmacy Act 2010
- Public Health Act 2016
- Radiation Safety Act 1975
- Tobacco Products Control Act 2006

6. Mandatory requirements
Under this policy framework HSPs must comply with all mandatory requirements* including:

6.1 Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Mandatory requirements for health promotion, injury prevention, chronic disease prevention and cultural diversity include:
6.2 Communicable Disease Control

6.2.1 Public Health Management of Communicable Diseases

Mandatory requirements for the prevention, identification, notification and control of communicable disease outbreaks include:

- **Adoption by WA Health of 'Series of National Guidelines' (SoNGS) produced by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia for public health management of communicable diseases** - OD 0660/16
- **Guidelines for exclusion of people with enteric infections and their contacts from work, school and child-care settings** - OD0645/16
- **Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities** - OD 0465/13
- **Public Health Follow-up of Sporadic Enteric Disease Notifications** - OD 0490 /14
- **Viral haemorrhagic fever response plan for Western Australia. 21 July 2015**
- **Westplan Human Epidemic**

6.2.2 Infection Prevention and Control

Mandatory requirements for infection control include:

- **Anaesthetic Equipment And Prevention Of Cross Infection** - OP 2046 /06
- **Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) Risk Assessment and Management** - OD 0456 /13
- **Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities** - OD 0527 /14
- **Infection Prevention and Control of Influenza-Like Illness in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities** - OD 0294 /10
- **Infection Prevention and Control of Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities** - OD 0399 /12
- **Infection Prevention and Control of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities (HCFs)** - OD 0478 /13
- **Infection Prevention and Control of Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities (HCFs)** - OD0646/16
- **Insertion and Management of Peripheral Intravenous Cannulae in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities** - MP 0038/16
- **Maintenance and cleaning of filters to Twin-O-Vac oxygen (O2) and suction regulators** - OP 2010 /05
- **Microbiological Air Sampling of Operating Rooms in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities** - OD 0610/15
- **National Hand Hygiene Initiative in Western Australian Hospitals** - OD 0429 /13
- **Prevention of Cross Infection in Diagnostic Ultrasound** - OD 0404/12
- **Reprocessing of Infant Feeding Equipment in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities** - OD 0369 /12
- **Sterilisation of Pharmaceuticals in Sterilising Service Departments and Operating / Procedural Rooms** - OD 0517 /14
• **Use of Macerator Machines for the Disposal of Human Waste in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities** - OD 0500 /14

6.2.3 **Sexual Health and Blood-Borne Virus**

Mandatory requirements for the prevention, identification, notification and control of sexually transmitted and blood-borne virus infections include:

• **Antenatal Testing for Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood-borne Viruses** - OD 0395 /12
• **Interagency Management of Children Under 14 Who are Diagnosed With a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)** - OD 0296 /10
• **Management of Occupational Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids in the Health Care Setting** - OD 0641/15
• **Mandatory Testing of a Suspected Transferor for an Infectious Disease** - OD 0632/15
• **Policy for Health Care Workers known to be Infected with Blood-borne Viruses** - OD 0394 /12
• **Protocol For Non-Occupational Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (NPEP) To Prevent HIV In Western Australia** - OD 0553 /14
• **Provision of Sterile Needles and Syringes from Rural and Regional Hospitals to People Who Inject Drugs** - OD 0554 /14
• **The Operation and Maintenance of Needle and Syringe Vending Machines (NSVMS)** - OD 0554 /14

6.2.4 **Immunisation**

Mandatory requirements for immunisation include:

• **Guidelines for Department of Health Vaccination Programs – School and Community Health Immunisation** - OD 0415 /13
• **Guidelines for the Provision of Hepatitis A and B Vaccine to Adults in Western Australia at Risk of Acquiring these Infections by Sexual Transmission and Injecting Drug Use** - OD 0392 /12
• **Health Care Worker Immunisation Policy** - OD 0388 /12
• **Hepatitis B Vaccination Program** - OD 0237 /09
• **Influenza and Pertussis Vaccinations for Pregnant Women** - OD 0600/15
• **Vaccine Cold Chain Guidelines** - OD 0355 /11
• **Vaccine Administration Code: Mumps Outbreak 2015-2016** - OD 0642 /16

6.2.5 **Tuberculosis**

Mandatory requirements for the prevention, identification, notification and control of tuberculosis include:

• **Fees and Charges related to the diagnosis and management of tuberculosis and leprosy** - OD 0229/09
• **Tuberculosis and Health Care Workers** - OD 0342 /11

6.3 **Environmental Health Management**

6.3.1 **Environmental Health Management**

Mandatory requirements for environmental health matters such as radiation safety, food and water safety, waste management, toxic hazards and legislative compliance include:
6.4 Disaster Preparedness and Management

6.4.1 Disaster Preparedness and Management
Mandatory requirements for the prevention, preparedness, response to and recovery aspects of a health response to a major incident include:

- Radiation Safety - OD 0453 /13
- Westplan Heatwave

6.4.2 Business Continuity
Mandatory requirements for business continuity planning include:

- Business Continuity Management - OD 0595 /15
- Western Australian Renal Dialysis Business Continuity Plan Version 1.2 - OD 0576 /14

6.5 Medicines and Poisons Management
Mandatory requirements for all aspects of medications management, particularly Schedule 8 and other attractive drugs include:

- Administration of Schedule 8 medicines to patients attending for emergencies - OD 0142 /08
- Cannabis-based Products for Medicinal Use - MP 0039/16
- Code of practice for the handling of Schedule 8 medicines (drugs of addiction) in hospitals and nursing posts - OD 0141 /08
- Management of Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy (CPOP) patients in a hospital setting - OD 0598/15
- Management of Schedule 8 and Restricted Schedule 4 oral liquid medicines - OD 0492 /14
- Reporting of medicine discrepancies in public hospitals and licensed private facilities which provide services to public patients in Western Australia - OD 0377 /12
- Storage and recording of propofol OD - 0529 /14
- Storage and recording of Restricted Schedule 4 (S4R) medicines - OD 0528 /14

6.6 Public Health Regulatory
Mandatory requirements for all aspects of public health regulations such as reporting and legislative compliance include:

- Assessment of the Extinction of Life and the Certification of Death - OD 0462 /13
- Release of Human Tissue and Explanted Medical Devices - OD 0398 /12

*Any mandatory requirement document that references the Hospitals and Health Act 1927 must be interpreted as a requirement under the Health Services Act 2016.*

7. Supporting information
The following documents support and inform the implementation of the mandatory requirements:
7.1 Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- About the Healthy Options WA Policy
- National strategy: National Tobacco Strategy 2012-2018
- Smoke Free WA Health System Policy and Guidelines
- Research and Evaluation Framework and Implementation Guide

7.2 Communicable Disease Control

7.2.1 Public Health Management of Communicable Diseases
- A practical guide to assist in the management of influenza outbreaks in residential care facilities in Australia, May 2009 (update pending)
- Roles and responsibilities in the control of communicable disease and health care associated infections
- Series of National Guidelines’ (SoNGs) produced by the Communicable Diseases Control Network of Australia for public health management of communicable diseases, including, but not limited to: Measles, Hepatitis A, Rabies and ABL, Pertussis, Avian Influenza, Dengue fever, Ebolavirus disease, Invasive Haemophilus influenzae type b infection, Hendra virus, Hepatitis C, HIV infection, Invasive meningococcal disease, Legionellosis, MERS- Coronavirus, Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Psittacosis, Syphilis, Trachoma and Tuberculosis
- Supply Of Tamiflu For Isolated Outbreaks Of Influenza - IC 0151 /13
- Surveillance Case Definitions for Notifiable Infectious Diseases and Related Conditions in Western Australia, July 2013

7.2.2 Infection Prevention and Control
- Community-associated methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (CA-MRSA) that are of public health significance in Western Australia - IC 0167 /13
- Fit testing and fit checking of particulate filter respirators (masks) in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities - IC 0142 /13

7.2.3 Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus
- Case Management Program guidelines, 2012. A Program for individuals with HIV who knowingly expose others to the risk of infection.

7.2.4 Immunisation

7.3 Environmental Health Management
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- Code of Practice for Radiation Protection in the Medical Applications of Ionizing Radiation
- Guidelines for Legionella control in the operation and maintenance of water distribution systems in health and aged care facilities
- Guidelines for the Environmental Health Investigation of a Food-borne Disease Outbreak
- The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code
- The Skin Penetrations Code of Practice
7.4 Disaster Preparedness and Management

7.4.1 Disaster Preparedness and Management
- Emergency Management Policy – MP 0073/17
- Guidelines for Working in Heat - IC 0136 /13
- Training requirements for hospital response teams and emergency management personnel - IC 0170 /13

7.4.2 Events Management
- Guidelines for concerts, events and organised gatherings

7.4.3 Business Continuity
- Business Continuity Management - Requirements and principles for WA Health
- Business Impact Analysis handbook

7.5 Genomics and Screening
- Western Australian Rare Diseases Strategic Framework 2015-2018

7.6 Medicines and Poisons Management
- Clinical policies and procedures for the use of methadone and buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid dependence – 3rd Edition
- Schedule 8 prescribing Code
- Stimulant Prescribing Code

7.7 Public Health Regulatory
- Direct Transfer of the Body of a Deceased Person into the Hands of Relatives - IC 0195 /14
- Notifications of Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) - IC0236/15
- Requirement for Notifications of Abortions under the Health Act 1911 - IC 0229/15

8. Policy framework custodian
Assistant Director General
Public and Aboriginal Health Division

Enquiries relating to this policy framework may be directed to:
PolicyFrameworkSupport@health.wa.gov.au

9. Review
This policy framework will be reviewed as required to ensure relevance and recency. At a minimum this policy framework will be reviewed within two years after first issue and at least every three years thereafter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Effective from</th>
<th>Effective to</th>
<th>Amendment(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 July 2016</td>
<td>20 October 2016</td>
<td>Original version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20 October 2016</td>
<td>1 November 2016</td>
<td>New MP 0038/16</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1 November 2016</td>
<td>4 January 2017</td>
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4 January 2017 | 21 June 2017 | Added Roles and Responsibilities in the Control of Communicable Disease and Healthcare Associated Infections link to Supporting Information.

21 June 2017 | 21 November 2017 | Rescinded OD 0555/14 and subheading 6.5 Genomics and Screening from Mandatory Requirements.

21 November 2017 | 21 December 2017 | New MP 0073/17, superseded OD 0631/15, OD 0607/15, OD 0594/154, OD 0593/15 OD 0560/14, OD 0513/14, OD 0483/14, OD 0428/13, OD 0405/12, OD 0384/12, OD 0224/09, IC 0152/13 and IC 0150/13

21 December 2017 | 31 January 2018 | Updated Policy Framework Custodian in online PDF Document only. Changes were not made to Policy Framework landing page until 10 January 2018.

31 January 2018 | 14 February 2018 | Removed Western Australian Immunisation Strategy 2013-2015 link from Supporting Information

14 February 2018 | 27 September 2018 | Rescinded OP 1866/04 and 1867/04 from Mandatory Requirements

27 September 2018 | Current | Rescinded OD 0625/15 from Mandatory Requirements

10. Approval
This policy framework has been approved and issued by the Director General of the Department of Health as the System Manager.

| Approval by | Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General, Department of Health |
| Approval date | 1 July 2016 |
| Published date | 27 September 2018 |
| Dept. File No | F-AA-40155 |

11. Compliance
This policy framework is binding on those to whom it applies or relates. Implementation at a local level will be subject to audit.
### 12. Glossary of terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicability</td>
<td>Under Section 26 of the <em>Health Services Act 2016</em>, policy frameworks may apply to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- All Health Service Providers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- A type of public health service facility</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- A type of public health service</td>
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<td>- A type of staff member of a health service provider.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Service Provider</td>
<td>Means a Health Service Provider established by an order made under section 32(1)(b) of the <em>Health Services Act 2016</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Genomics</td>
<td>Human Genomics is the study of human genes and the impact of their interaction with lifestyle and environment on human health. The public health role is to translate new knowledge and emerging genetic technologies and disease screening into health benefit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA health system</td>
<td>Pursuant to section 19(1) of the <em>Health Services Act 2016</em>, means the Department of Health, Health Service Providers and to the extent that Contracted Health Entities provide health services to the State, the Contracted Health Entities.</td>
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