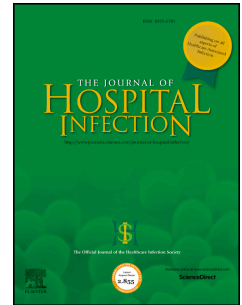


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Reply to: Guidelines on Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infection in Neonates and Children

AR Araujo da Silva, PhD, Professor of Neonatology, W. Zingg, A. Dramowski, J.A. Bielicki, Clinical research fellow, Consultant M. Sharland



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REPLY TO: GUIDELINES ON PREVENTION OF HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTION IN NEONATES AND CHILDREN

AR Araujo da Silva,¹ W Zingg,² A Dramowski,³ JA Bielicki,⁴ M Sharland⁵

1- Professor of Neonatology-PhD- Federal Fluminense University - Faculty of Medicine. Laboratory of Teaching in Prevention and Control of Healthcare-associated infections

2- Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève- Service de prévention et contrôle de l'infection- Senior physician in the infection control programme at the University of Geneva hospitals

3- Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Division of Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

4-Clinical research fellow, Paediatric Infectious Diseases Research Group, St George's University London, UK

5-Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases -St George's Healthcare NHS Trust. Professor in Paediatric Infectious Diseases -St George's University of London -Paediatric Infectious Diseases Research Group, St George's University London

Corresponding author: Prof André Ricardo Araujo da Silva – Federal Fluminense University- Faculty

of Medicine- Materno-Infantil Department- Rua Marquês do Paraná 303, 3rd floor, Niterói-Rio de

Janeiro-Brazil. ZIP CODE: 24033-900. Tel: +55 21 99854 1950. Email: andrericardo@huap.uff.br

Sir,

In response to the comment from Simon et al, we really appreciate initiative of German Commission for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention (KRINKO) in integrate pediatric aspects to the infection control recommendations.¹ Research on rates and prevalent types of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) are increasing around the world, and implementation of surveillance systems targeting paediatrics are needed to understand which actions should be priority in order to reduce impact of HAI in children and newborns.²⁻⁴

Some recommendations in the most important guidelines to prevent HAI can reasonably be applied to children and newborns, despite gaps and necessity of studies with specific intervention in this population. For example, this may apply to surgical site infections and catheter-associated urinary tract infections, as we described in our article. We agree that recommendations should be reported as practical and simple measures to prevent HAI avoiding extensive and impractical guidelines in the daily clinical practice. However, we also consider that not only are there circumstances where there is insufficient evidence base to make specific recommendations around prevention of HAI in paediatrics, but there may not be systems to either determine infection rates in children or to define whether infection rates are 'acceptable' or not.

Moreover, there are also challenges in how to implement and follow recommendations described in international guidelines, considering the reality that available resources and behaviours are not equal across different countries. In this context a good approach to implementation of infection control programmes (ICP) was proposed by Zingg et al.⁵ It should also be a priority to have more studies reporting the experience of ICP in countries with limited resources and solutions founded to prevent HAI.⁵

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