

Introduction

The organization of infection prevention and control in Denmark is divided in:

- **The national level:** National Center for Infection Control at Statens Serum Institut cooperates with the authorities, National Board of Health, Ministry of Health, and makes national guidelines for infection prevention and control for the Danish health care sector.
- **The regional/local level:** There are infection control units in each of the five regions in Denmark. These units consist of infection control nurses and clinical microbiologists and they provide guidance to the hospitals and in some regions also to the primary health care sector. The units make local guidelines from the national guidelines, perform infection control audits in wards at the hospitals, educate link health care workers etc.



A strategy meeting is held twice a year with representatives from the National Center for Infection Control and the five regional units. At these meetings decisions concerning implementation and compliance strategies are made, e.g. the need for new guidelines, campaigns for hand hygiene, e-learning programmes etc.

National guideline for use of i.v.- catheters

This guideline was published in 2015. The main recommendations to prevent infections are:

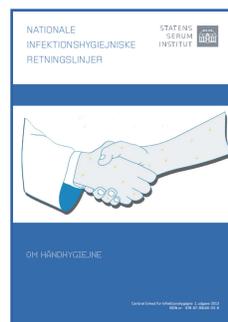
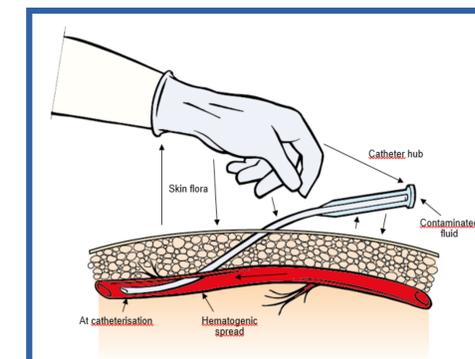
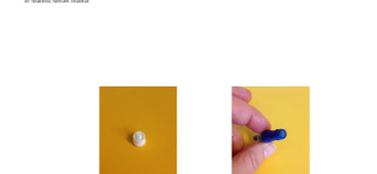
- Education programme for placement and handling of the i.v.- catheter
- Correct hand hygiene
- Aseptic technique in all situations when handling the catheter
- Correct disinfection of the skin
- Use a sterile single use plug or "scrub the hub" mechanically in five seconds before and after use
- Use a sterile dressing of gauze or a semipermeable sterile dressing
 - The sterile dressing of gauze shall be changed every 2nd day or if it gets wet, loose or contaminated
 - The sterile semipermeable dressing shall be changed every 7th day or if it gets wet, loose or contaminated.



Description of the national guidelines

In 2012, the Ministry of Health gave National Center for Infection Control the task of making new national guidelines for infection prevention and control. Since then 16 guidelines have been made in cooperation with infection control specialists from the five infection control units and clinical experts (depending on the subject) in Denmark. Every fourth to fifth year they are revised.

The guidelines are free of charge and are easy to download from the website. The recommendations are based on literature studies of recent international and national guidelines, structured reviews and meta-analyses on the subject, laws or a consensus decision on good clinical practice.



Discussion

How can a national guideline be implemented?

- A national guideline is important to have in place but it has to be "translated" to a local guideline in order to be implemented and used.
- National and regional/local work shops and training days are necessary when introducing a new guideline.
- E-learning programmes may be helpful in training of health care workers and are often used in Denmark.

