The understanding of the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections (HAIs) is pivotal to all healthcare workers practice and health service management. Up to half of all HAIs are preventable and while there are numerous interventions and guidelines aimed at reducing the burden of HAIs in vulnerable patients these infections continue to contribute to increased morbidity and mortality, increased costs and longer hospital stays.

**About this course**

This course is aimed at students who are not infection control practitioners but who want an introduction to current core components of HAI prevention and control programs in the acute healthcare setting. Topics include an overview of the epidemiology and surveillance of HAIs in Australia and overseas, antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic prescribing stewardship efforts, guidelines and standards related to HAI prevention and control strategies, and infection control in emergency and low resource settings.

This course will provide an overview of the aims and core elements of an infection prevention and control program, and implementation of infection prevention strategies. The student will develop an understanding of the challenges of infection prevention and control programs and strategies of acute healthcare settings to follow policies and guidelines.

Expert guest lecturers from peak government and non-government organisations will present on a range of specialist topics over the semester.

**Course Mode**

This course can be taken either fully online by distance mode or internally with face-to-face classes on campus.

**Further Information**

If you are interested in the program and want to find out more, please visit the website or contact the course convenors:

Dr Holly Seale  
h.seale@unsw.edu.au

Dr Seale’s research is focused on the sociological aspects of infectious diseases and infection prevention. Within this program, she researches the individual, societal and organisational factors that influence compliance with infection prevention strategies. Using the results she aims to formulate and develop new approaches/interventions to improve uptake. Her research spans pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical prevention strategies, includes qualitative and quantitative research approaches and consumers such as hospital/community healthcare workers, special at-risk groups (people with underlying illness, migrants/refugees), students and the general public.

Prof Mary-Louise McLaws  
Epidemiology, Healthcare Infection and Infectious Disease Control  
m.mclaws@unsw.edu.au

Prof McLaws is nationally and internationally recognised renowned infection control epidemiologist. She performed the first national survey of HAIs in Australia and developed the first pilot standardised surveillance system for HAIs in Australia on behalf of the NSW Ministry. Prof McLaws has collaborated with the Clinical Excellence Commission on statewide interventions to reduce HAIs that includes the Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infection prevention intervention, Clean Care Saves Lives, and the Sepsis KILLS program.

Internationally, she was appointed as the World Health Organization (WHO) Advisor to China and Malaysia for the development of their national HAI surveillance programs, and was appointed to the Advisory Committees for the development of the WHO Clean Care is Safer Care Guidelines, WHO First Global Patient Safety Challenge program and evaluation of the Clean Care is Safer Care program in six global pilot sites. Recently she was appointed to the WHO Advisory Committee member for the development of Core Components of an Infection Prevention and Control Program. Her research investigations into clinical practice associated with the prevention and control of HAIs in low and middle-income countries include Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Taiwan, Turkey and Vietnam.