

Select Committee Question dated 21/1/2004

1. **The numbers of healthcare workers in Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) and their family members infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) after 19 March 2003.**
2. **The respective onset date and date of admission of PWH healthcare workers and their family members infected with SARS after 19 March 2003.**
3. **Guidelines, if any, setting out the procedure for compliance check on infection control measures carried out by healthcare workers before and during the SARS outbreak.**
4. **Compliance check on infection control measures carried out in PWH before and during the SARS outbreak.**

1. **The numbers of healthcare workers in Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) and their family members infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) after 19 March 2003.**

Healthcare workers – 54;
Healthcare workers' Relatives – 1

2. **The respective onset date and date of admission of PWH healthcare workers and their family members infected with SARS after 19 March 2003.**

	Illness onset date	Adm date	HCWs' Relatives	HCW
1	19-Mar-03	19-Mar-03		Yes
2	19-Mar-03	20-Mar-03		Yes
3	20-Mar-03	23-Mar-03	Yes	
4	20-Mar-03	26-Mar-03		Yes
5	20-Mar-03	31-Mar-03		Yes
6	21-Mar-03	22-Mar-03		Yes
7	21-Mar-03	23-Mar-03		Yes
8	21-Mar-03	23-Mar-03		Yes
9	22-Mar-03	22-Mar-03		Yes
10	22-Mar-03	22-Mar-03		Yes
11	22-Mar-03	24-Mar-03		Yes
12	23-Mar-03	23-Mar-03		Yes
13	23-Mar-03	24-Mar-03		Yes
14	23-Mar-03	27-Mar-03		Yes
15	24-Mar-03	24-Mar-03		Yes
16	24-Mar-03	25-Mar-03		Yes
17	24-Mar-03	26-Mar-03		Yes
18	24-Mar-03	27-Mar-03		Yes
19	25-Mar-03	25-Mar-03		Yes
20	25-Mar-03	26-Mar-03		Yes
21	25-Mar-03	1-Apr-03		Yes
22	26-Mar-03	26-Mar-03		Yes

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	Illness onset date	Adm date	HCWs' Relatives	HCW
23	26-Mar-03	27-Mar-03		Yes
24	26-Mar-03	28-Mar-03		Yes
25	26-Mar-03	29-Mar-03		Yes
26	27-Mar-03	29-Mar-03		Yes
27	27-Mar-03	29-Mar-03		Yes
28	27-Mar-03	1-Apr-03		Yes
29	28-Mar-03	29-Mar-03		Yes
30	4-Apr-03	6-Apr-03		Yes
31	7-Apr-03	9-Apr-03		Yes
32	7-Apr-03	11-Apr-03		Yes
33	10-Apr-03	11-Apr-03		Yes
34	11-Apr-03	11-Apr-03		Yes
35	11-Apr-03	13-Apr-03		Yes
36	12-Apr-03	13-Apr-03		Yes
37	12-Apr-03	14-Apr-03		Yes
38	13-Apr-03	13-Apr-03		Yes
39	13-Apr-03	15-Apr-03		Yes
40	13-Apr-03	15-Apr-03		Yes
41	13-Apr-03	16-Apr-03		Yes
42	14-Apr-03	16-Apr-03		Yes
43	15-Apr-03	18-Apr-03		Yes
44	15-Apr-03	20-Apr-03		Yes
45	16-Apr-03	19-Apr-03		Yes
46	17-Apr-03	2-May-03		Yes
47	26-Apr-03	29-Apr-03		Yes
48	26-Apr-03	30-Apr-03		Yes
49	26-Apr-03	1-May-03		Yes
50	29-Apr-03	3-May-03		Yes
51	30-Apr-03	2-May-03		Yes
52	5-May-03	7-May-03		Yes

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	Illness onset date	Adm_date	HCWs' Relatives	HCW
53	8-May-03	12-May-03		Yes
54	10-May-03	15-May-03		Yes
55	22-Jul-03	22-Mar-03		Yes

3. *Guidelines, if any, setting out the procedure for compliance check on infection control measures carried out by healthcare workers before and during the SARS outbreak.*

4. *Compliance check on infection control measures carried out in PWH before and during the SARS outbreak.*

Answers to 3 and 4

A. Before SARS outbreak

- (I) Routine monitoring of compliance for all staff
- a. *Regular visits for compliance check*
Random visits to wards/units daily so that all grades of staff were observed and inappropriate infection control practice rectified on site.
- b. *Visits for patients requiring transmission-based isolation*
List of patients requiring transmission-based isolation was routinely generated by the laboratory based surveillance system, followed by inspections by the team on compliance to appropriate isolation measures.
- c. *Special arrangement*
Areas with infection breakthrough were visited. Staff interviewed and their practices reviewed. Environmental samplings were also performed.
- d. *Others*
There were regular checks on hand hygiene practice, environmental scanning, management of contaminated linens and clinical wastes.

B. During SARS outbreak

- (I) Routine monitoring continued

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- (II) Compliance checks were beefed up. Regular visits, patrol, assessment and surveys carried out in all areas. The work performed by various parties was :
- a. Hospital infection control team
- i. *Ward visits for compliance of infection control measures*
All staff was observed and inappropriate infection control practice rectified on site.
- ii. *Assessment of infection control knowledge and hand hygiene technique*
The sessions mainly targeted on staff from high risk areas such as the SARS and infection triage wards.
- iii. *Hospital-wide survey on compliance to SARS infection control measures*
Items surveyed included the following:
- Infection control organisation in the workplace
 - Checking of SARS training
 - Awareness of infection control practice
 - Environmental issues
 - Stock and use of personal protective equipment
 - Minor staff (including contractor staff) compliance
 - Visitor and patient compliance
- b. Ward/unit staff
- * Regular discussion on infection control issues in the workplace
 - * A warden buddy system to remind workers on infection control precautions
 - * Ward/shift infection control officer to supervise infection control measures
 - * Daily 'SARS battling update' distributed to workplace
- c. SARS infection control patrol team
Their major roles were as follows:
- * Teach and check the use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).
 - * Disseminate information and supervise on the practice of infection control measures.
 - * Perform environmental surveillance.