

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 25 MAY 2005**

**EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KZN INFECTION CONTROL SOCIETY HOLDS SEMINAR**

Infection control in health care facilities is one of the most important elements in the prevention of outbreaks and the spread of other infectious diseases. Health care associated infections can lead to death, disability and could also result in excess medical costs. Infection prevention and control helps maximise patient outcomes and it is part of the government's responsibility to provide effective, efficient and quality health services.

Health care facilities must implement infection prevention and control policies supported by institutional management. An overall approach to an infection prevention and control policy at the health care facility level is based upon: management, information, education and communication, continuous availability of essential equipment and supplies as well as surveillance.

Some of the specific activities under infection control include:

- ✓ Healthcare worker protection
- ✓ Isolation protocols for specific infectious diseases (E.g. TB, SARS, VHF etc) and other high risk settings (e.g. Dialysis and parental nutrition)
- ✓ Rational use of anti-microbials
- ✓ Safe and appropriate use of injections and infusions
- ✓ Safe and appropriate use of blood and blood products
- ✓ Hospital environmental hygiene

To rise to the challenges the Infection Control Society of KwaZulu-Natal will host a one-day seminar in Durban. The media is invited to attend and report on this very important seminar.

**DATE: Thursday, 26 May 2005**

**TIME: 09H00**

**VENUE: Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lecture Theatre, Hospital Building**

A copy of the programme is attached.

ENDS.

**For more information please contact Mrs J.S. Masinga from Infection Control on (033) 395 3042 or Mrs Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943.**