

## **Updated Pacific Hospital Based Active Surveillance Manual**

WHO (South Pacific) has updated the Hospital Based Active Surveillance (HBAS) manual for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), acute fever and rash (AFR) and neonatal tetanus (NT) in the Pacific. Copies of the new edition are currently being distributed to all 58 HBAS reporting sites among the 20 Pacific countries and areas, both as a hard copy and accompanying CD.

This is the first update of the original AFP/EPI Surveillance Folder developed by WHO in 1997. Key amendments are:

- an updated AFP case investigation form that should be easier to follow;
- a new AFR case investigation form that replaces the original “suspected measles” case investigation form, and is more inclusive of similar diseases such as rubella and dengue;
- a new NT case investigation form;
- a new AFR laboratory request form;
- updated specimen shipping guidelines that reflect new changes by the United Nations to substance classification; and
- contact details for all WHO offices, PPHSN, both the polio and measles labs at the Victorian Infectious Disease Reference Laboratory and all Pacific LabNet L2 labs.

In addition, all documents and reporting forms are available on the PPHSN website to allow for wider dispersal, more rapid updating and greater integration with PPHSN. WHO hopes this site will allow both WHO and PPHSN to provide improved feedback to the Pacific region on issues surrounding EPI diseases surveillance for polio, measles, rubella and tetanus.

The HBAS folder and the accompanying surveillance forms can be accessed at:  
<http://www.spc.int/phs/PPHSN/Surveillance/HBAS.htm>

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