

## Notification of Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease - the NSW Public Health Act 2010

**Document Number** IB2015\_057

**Publication date** 29-Sep-2015

**Functional Sub group** Clinical/ Patient Services - Medical Treatment  
Clinical/ Patient Services - Infectious diseases  
Population Health - Communicable Diseases

**Summary** This information Bulletin provides guidance on the requirement for notification of Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease in persons under 35 years of age under the Public Health Act 2010.

**Author Branch** Health Protection

**Branch contact** Health Protection 02 9461 7073

**Applies to** Local Health Districts, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, Public Health System Support Division, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, Government Medical Officers, Ministry of Health, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals, NSW Health Pathology

**Audience** All staff

**Distributed to** Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, Ministry of Health, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres

**Review date** 29-Sep-2020

**Policy Manual** Health Records & Information, Patient Matters

**File No.** H15/3611

**Status** Active

## NOTIFICATION OF ACUTE RHEUMATIC FEVER AND RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 2010

### PURPOSE

This Information Bulletin provides guidance on the addition of Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) to the list of medical conditions in Schedule 1 of the *NSW Public Health Act*, and to the list of notifiable diseases in Schedule 2 of the Act.

Under the provisions of the *Public Health Act 2010* and the *Public Health Regulation 2012*, doctors, hospital chief executive officers (or general managers), pathology laboratories, directors of child care centres and school principals are required to notify certain medical conditions listed on the NSW Ministry of Health website.

### KEY INFORMATION

On 2 October 2015 the *NSW Public Health Act 2010* was amended to add ARF and RHD in a person under the age of 35 to:

- a) The list of medical conditions in Schedule 1 to that Act:
  - i. That must be notified by medical practitioners to the Secretary of the NSW Ministry of Health, and
- b) The list of notifiable diseases in Schedule 2 to that Act:
  - i. That must be notified by health practitioners providing care in hospitals to the chief executive officer of the hospital concerned, and
  - ii. That must be notified by the chief executive officer of a hospital to the Secretary of the NSW Ministry of Health.

### NOTIFICATION MECHANISMS

Information on the notification of infectious diseases under the *Public Health Act 2010* is detailed in the Information Bulletin IB2013\_010.

Infectious disease notifications should be directed to the local Public Health Unit, and should be initiated as soon as possible within 24 hours of diagnosis.

In order to protect patient confidentiality, notifications must not be made by facsimile machine except in exceptional circumstances and when confidentiality is ensured.

Disease notification guidelines and notification forms for notifiers are available at: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/notification.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/notification.aspx).