

Infection Prevention Program Guide for Healthcare Settings

This document lists a core set of infection prevention and control practices that are required in all healthcare settings, regardless of the type of healthcare provided.

If a facility lacks current infection prevention plan components, use nationally recognized agency tools (CDC, CMS, SHEA, AHRQ, APIC, etc.) to update and/or create a plan.

Program Introduction

The core practices in this guide should be implemented in all settings where healthcare is delivered. This includes inpatient settings (e.g., acute, long-term care) and outpatient settings (e.g., clinics, urgent care, ambulatory surgical centers, imaging centers, dialysis centers, physical therapy and rehabilitation centers, alternative medicine clinics). In addition, many of these practices apply to healthcare delivered in settings other than traditional healthcare facilities, such as homes, assisted living communities and adult day care centers.

- Review infection prevention scope of responsibilities (provided by administrator/director)
- Plan staff and provider introduction (all shifts)
- Establish points of contact (and introductions as appropriate) for:
 - ✓ Local and state health department
 - ✓ Corporate personnel
 - ✓ Providers (including after hours)
 - ✓ Outbreak notification (including after hours)
 - ✓ Reporting systems (EMR, NHSN)

Supporting Resources:

- [CDC's Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings | Infection Control | CDC](#)
- [Toolkit for the Isolated Infection Preventionist | APIC](#)
- [State & Territorial Health Department Websites | CDC](#)

National Healthcare Safety Network

- Establish a National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) account, as appropriate.

Supporting Resources:

- [Joining the HQIN Nursing Home Reporting NHSN Group | HQIN](#)
- [Long-Term Care Facility \(LTCF\) National Healthcare Safety Network \(NHSN\) Frequently Asked Questions, Scenarios & Important Links | HQIN](#)

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Core Processes and Practices

IP Program Risk Assessment and Facility Goals

- The infection prevention and control program is based on identified risks specific to the care, treatment and services the facility provides. The risks are reviewed at least annually.

Supporting Resources:

- [Infection Control Assessment and Response \(ICAR\) Tool for General Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Across Settings | CDC](#)
- [LTC Infection Prevention Risk Assessment | SPICE](#)
- [Infection Prevention Annual Risk Assessment Email Template | HQIN](#)
- [Risk Assessment, Emergency Preparedness, Regulatory Compliance Presentation Slides | HQIN](#)
- [Necessary Infrastructure of Infection Prevention and Healthcare Epidemiology Programs: A Review | Cambridge Core](#)

IP Program Goals, Plan and Evaluation

- The infection prevention and control program has established measurable goals that are reviewed at least annually.

Supporting Resources:

- [Program Plan, Policies and Resources Presentation Slides | HQIN](#)
- [Content of an Infection Prevention and Control Plan | APIC](#)
- [Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes | CDC](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Plan Checklist | Joint Commission](#)

IP Program & Surveillance

- The infection prevention and control program has a process for identifying infections based on evidence-based guidelines:
 - ✓ Lab and reporting system
 - ✓ Vaccine supply/storage
 - ✓ Notification process related to antibiotic order
 - ✓ Isolation guidelines (facility, CDC)
 - ✓ Environmental rounds
 - ✓ Water quality
 - ✓ Testing supplies (flu, COVID-19, PCR testing, etc.)
 - ✓ Identification process for new infection
 - ✓ Tracking tools (compliance, vaccination, etc.)
 - ✓ Isolation supplies [personal protective equipment (PPE), isolation carts, signage]
 - ✓ Laundry

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Supporting Resources:

- [Introduction to Specimen Collection | LabCorp](#)
- [Specimen Collection and Transport Guide | Quest Diagnostics](#)
- [Specimen Collection and Handling Guide | University of Colorado Hospital](#)
- [Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit | CDC](#)
- [NHSN Patient Safety Component Manual | CDC](#) (Acute care definitions begin at chapter 17)
- [HAI Checklists | CDC](#)
- [Surveillance Definitions of Infections in Long-Term Care Facilities: Revisiting the McGeer Criteria | JSTOR](#)
- [Using the Health Care Physical Environment to Prevent and Control Infection | ASHE](#)
- [Implementing an Antibiotic Stewardship Program: Guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America](#)

Monitoring and Auditing Processes

- The infection prevention and control program monitors adherence to infection prevention practices and infection control requirements.
- Provide prompt, regular feedback on adherence and related outcomes to healthcare personnel and facility leadership:
 - ✓ Identified risk priorities R/T residents/staff
 - ✓ Compliance of hand hygiene, PPE, standard precautions, bloodborne pathogens, etc.
 - ✓ Personal protective equipment inventory
 - ✓ Laundry (operation and linen handling)
 - ✓ Cleaning and disinfection
 - ✓ Injection safety

Supporting Resources:

- [Competency-Based Training 102: Using Audits to Monitor IP Practices | CDC](#)
- [Competency-Based Training 103: Giving IP Feedback | CDC](#)
- [Compliance Monitoring, Analysis and Feedback Presentation Slides | HQIN](#)
- [The Infection Preventionist's Guide to the Lab | Academia](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Burn Rate Calculator | CDC](#)
- [Safe Linen and Laundry Management Audit Tool | HQIN](#)
- [CDC Environmental Checklist for Monitoring Terminal Cleaning](#)
- [Injection Safety Checklist | CDC](#)

IP Emergency Preparedness

- The infection prevention and control program has a written plan for emergency preparedness.

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Supporting Resources:

- [Emergency Preparedness Rule | CMS](#)
- [Incorporating Infection Prevention and Control into an Emergency Preparedness Plan | AHRQ](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness Plan Assessment Template | HQIN](#)

IP Policies

- The infection prevention and control program has written infection prevention and control policies based on evidence-based guidelines, regulations or standards that are available to the staff and are current:
 - ✓ Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan
 - ✓ Employee/Occupational Health
 - ✓ Injection and Medication Safety
 - ✓ Standard Precautions
 - ✓ Tuberculosis Exposure Control Plan
 - ✓ Cleaning and Disinfection
 - ✓ Hand Hygiene
 - ✓ Respiratory Protection
 - ✓ Transmission Precautions/Enhanced Barrier Precautions

Supporting Resources:

- [General Resources on Bloodborne Pathogens | NIOSH | CDC](#)
- [Infrastructure and Routine Practices | CDC](#)
- [Environmental Cleaning Procedures | CDC](#)
- [Environmental Cleaning Program Improvement Toolkit: Section B-Tools | CDC](#)
- [Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Facilities | CDC](#)
- [Guidelines & Guidance Library | CDC](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration Healthcare Overview | OSHA](#)
- [Appendix P. Evaluating and Selecting Hand Hygiene Products - Implementation Guide | AHRQ](#)
- [Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings | CDC](#)
- [Guide to Hand Hygiene Programs for Infection Prevention | APIC](#)
- [Respiratory Protection Standard 1910.134 | OSHA](#)
- [Standard Precautions: Observation of Hand Hygiene Provision of Supplies | CDC](#)
- [MMWR Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-care Settings | CDC](#)
- [Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes Algorithm | Virginia Department of Health](#)

Quality & Infection Prevention

- The infection prevention and control program has a process for reporting data.
- Determine schedule of quality assurance and performance improvement (QAPI) meetings.
- Determine presence of antibiotic stewardship program.

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Supporting Resources:

- [QAPI Meeting Agenda Guide | HQIN](#)
- [QAPI Fishbone Diagram | HQIN](#)
- [QAPI Sustainability Decision Guide | HQIN](#)
- [Implementing an Antibiotic Stewardship Program: Guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America](#)

Infection Prevention Training of Staff

- The infection prevention and control program includes developed processes to ensure that all healthcare personnel understand and are competent to adhere to infection prevention requirements as they perform their roles and responsibilities.
- Refer to IP policy section for topics to include in staff training.

Supporting Resources:

- [Information for Employers Complying with OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard | NIOSH | CDC](#)
- [Training Requirements in OSHA Standards | OSHA](#)
- [Infection Prevention Training | CDC](#)
- [Project Firstline Infection Control Training | CDC](#)
- [TB 101 for Health Care Workers | Web-Based Courses & Webinars | CDC](#)
- [Interactive Core Curriculum on Tuberculosis: What the Clinician Should Know | CDC](#)
- [Self-Study Modules on Tuberculosis | CDC](#)

IP Education

- The infection prevention and control program has a designated staff person who has been trained in infection prevention and control.

Supporting Resources:

- [STRIVE Infection Control Training | CDC](#)
- [Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course | CDC TRAIN](#)
- [SHEA/CDC Outbreak Response Training Program | SHEA](#)
- [The Challenges and Innovations in Antimicrobial Stewardship | SHEA](#)
- [Developmental Path of the Infection Preventionist | APIC](#)
- [Antibiotic Stewardship Course: Module 7: Antibiotic Stewardship in Hospitals | CDC TRAIN](#)

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Additional Resources		
Resource	Description	Fee
Association of Practitioners of Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) membership	Active annual membership is \$215. APIC offers other options for students, associated members, etc.	Depends upon membership type
Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council	Access to standards, informative webinars, etc., is free. A fee is associated with accreditation.	Free
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	Tools and toolkits applicable to a variety of settings.	Free
APIC Implementation Guides	Guides for implementing hand hygiene, <i>C. difficile</i> reduction, CLABSI/CAUTI reduction, etc.	Free, depending upon resource
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Infection Prevention Tools	Resources to assist clinicians, administrators and health department personnel in preventing infections in long-term care facilities.	Free
Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Gerontology Webinars	Educational resources, including webinars related to caring for seniors.	Free
National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)	Healthcare-associated Infections tracking system.	Free
National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH)	CDC's educational resources for a variety of healthcare settings.	Free, depending upon resource type
Infection Prevention Training	CDC/CMS infection preventionist training course for those responsible for infection prevention/control programs in nursing homes.	Free
Occupational Safety and Health Workplace Health Resources	CDC's educational and training tools for a variety of settings.	Free
Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare Workers	CDC's vaccine descriptions and recommendations for healthcare workers	Free
Reduce Risk from Water	CDC's water management program guide, resources, etc.	Free
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)	Infection prevention educational materials and resources.	Free, some require membership
Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center	Webinars and educational material focused on infection prevention.	Free
Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course	CDC TRAIN's basic infection prevention training.	Free, requires registration
Resources for TB Programs	CDC's educational and training resources specific to tuberculosis.	Free