# 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
- Sample Job Description for the Infection Preventionist | APIC

## National Healthcare Safety Network

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

**Supporting Resources:**
- Resources by Facility | NHSN | CDC
- Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Frequently Asked Questions, Scenarios & Important Links | HQIN
- Frequently Asked Questions | NHSN | CDC

## 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 Tools | HAI | CDC
- LTC Infection Prevention Risk Assessment | SPICE
- Risk Assessment, Emergency Preparedness, Regulatory Compliance Presentation Slides | HQIN
- Risk Assessment for Infection Surveillance, Prevention and Control Programs in Ambulatory Healthcare Settings
- Facility Infection Control Risk Assessment Tool

### 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
- Infection Prevention and Control Plan Checklist | Joint Commission
- Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes | CDC

### 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

**Supporting Resources:**
- Introduction to Specimen Collection | LabCorp
- The Infection Preventionist's Guide to the Lab | Academia
- 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
- McGeer's Definitions for Healthcare Associated Infections for Surveillance for Long Term Care Facilities
- Revised McGeer Criteria for Infection Surveillance Checklist | NADONA
- 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
- 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
- Hand Hygiene Competency Validation | UNC SPICE
- Personal Protective Equipment Competency Validation | UNC SPICE
- ICAR Tool for General Infection and Control (IPC) Across Settings | CDC

## IP Emergency Preparedness

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

**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

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## 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.

**Supporting Resources:**
- 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
- Competency Self-Assessment Activity for Novice or Becoming Proficient IPs | APIC
- Infection Prevention Learning Journey | NETEC

## 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, *C. difficile* 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 |
| Tools for Healthcare Settings | Infection Control | CDC | Variety of resources, such as infection control assessment tools and Targeted Assessment for Prevention (TAP) Strategy. | 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 |

## Additional Resources

| Resource | Description | Fee |
|---|---|---|
| Infection Prevention Training | CDC/CMS infection preventionist training course for those responsible for infection prevention/control programs in nursing homes. | Free |
| Tools for Healthcare Settings \| Infection Control \| CDC | CDC tools to assist with IP programs in a variety of settings. | 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 |
| CDC TRAIN - an affiliate of the TRAIN Learning Network powered by the Public Health Foundation | CDC TRAIN provides access to more than 1,000 courses developed by the CDC. | Free; requires registration |
| Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course | CDC TRAIN's basic infection prevention training. | Free, requires registration |
| Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center | Webinars and educational material focused on infection prevention. | Free |
| Resources for TB Programs | CDC's educational and training resources specific to tuberculosis. | Free |
| Guidelines and Resources for Infection Preventionists \| APIC | Variety of useful tools and resources for the IP across all settings of care. | Free |
| Quick Observation Tools (QUOTs) for Infection Prevention \| CDC | Multiple observational tools for monitoring the IP program. | Free |

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**HQIN**
Health Quality Innovation Network