



Joint Commission Readiness for Infection Control and Prevention

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Infection Prevention and Control Chapter

Joint Commission Standards

- Applicable to all infections or potential sources of infection that hospital staff, practitioners, and administrators might encounter, including a sudden influx of infectious patients.
- Designed to assist hospitals, both large and small, in developing and maintaining an effective program that covers a wide range of situations.

Chapter Outline

- I. Planning
 - A. Responsibility (IC.01.01.01)
 - B. Resources (IC.01.01.01)
 - C. Risks (IC.01.03.01)
 - D. Goals (IC.01.04.01)
 - E. Activities (IC.01.05.01)
 - F. Influx (IC.01.06.01)

Chapter Outline Continued

- **II. Implementation**
 - A. Activities (IC.02.01.01)
 - B. Medical Equipment, Devices, and Supplies (IC.02.02.01)
 - C. Transmission of Infections (IC. 02.03.01)
 - D. Influenza Vaccinations (IC.02.04.01)
(IC.02.04.03 and IC.02.04.05 are not applicable to hospitals)
- III. Evaluation and Improvement (IC.03.01.01)**

Planning - Overview

- Program must be well managed to be effective
- Hospital leadership assigns one or more people to be responsible for development of the program and its management
- Gather staff with expertise in infection control, building management, and other key team members to perform a risk assessment

Planning- Risk Assessment

- Prioritize the results of the risk assessment
- Place in order of level of probability and potential for harm.
- Set goals for reducing the risks of the infections that pose the greatest threat to patients and the community
- Goals should lead to focused activities, based on relevant professional guidelines and sound scientific practice

IC.01.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital identifies the Individual(s) with clinical authority over the infection prevention and control program.

IC.01.01.01

Elements of Performance

- When this person is identified and they do not have expertise in infection prevention and control, they consult with someone who has such expertise in order to make knowledgeable decisions.

IC.01.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital assigns responsibility for the daily management of infection prevention and control activities. (See also HR.01.02.01, EP 1; LD.03.06.01, EP 3)

This is the authority statement which gives the Infection Preventionist the authority to manage the program.

IC.01.01.01

Elements of Performance

- For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes: The individual with clinical authority over the infection prevention and control program is responsible for the following:
 - Development of policies and procedures
 - Implementation of policies and procedures
 - Development of a system for identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases

IC.01.02.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital provides access to information needed to support the infection prevention and control program. (see also IM02.02.03, EP 2)

The Infection Preventionist must have access to patient information, information regarding supplies etc in order to manage the program.

IC.01.02.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital provides laboratory resources when needed to support the infection prevention and control program.
 - Environmental culturing
 - Immunity testing of employees
 - Genotyping of organisms during an outbreak

IC.01.02.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital provides equipment and supplies to support the infection prevention and control program.
 - Isolation supplies
 - Hand hygiene supplies
 - Environmental cleaning supplies
 - Sharps disposal
 - Safety needles

IC.01.03.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital identifies risks for acquiring and transmitting infections based on the following:
 - Its geographical location
 - Community
 - And population served
 - See also NPSG.07.03.01, EP 1)

IC.01.03.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital identifies risks for acquiring and transmitting infections based on the following:
 - Care
 - Treatment
 - Services
 - See also NPSG.07.03.01 EP 1

IC.01.03.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital identifies risks for acquiring and transmitting infections based on the analysis of surveillance activities and other infection control data.
 - See also NPSG.07.03.01, EP 1; TS.03.03.01, EP 2

IC.01.03.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital reviews and identifies its risks at least annually and whenever significant changes occur with input from at a minimum, infection control personnel, medical staff, nursing, and leadership.
 - See also NPSG.07.03.01, EP 1

IC.01.03.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital prioritizes the identified risks for acquiring and transmitting infections. These prioritized risks are documented.
 - See also NPSG.07.03.01, EP 1

IC.01.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital's written infection prevention and control goals include addressing its prioritized risks.
 - What processes are going to be implemented to decrease the risk?
 - How is the impact of the implementation going to be monitored?
 - What metrics will be used?

IC.01.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital's written infection prevention and control goals include limiting unprotected exposure to pathogens.
 - Exposure control plan
 - Use of safety needles
 - Adherence to isolation guidelines

IC.01.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital's written infection prevention and control goals include limiting the transmission of infections associated with procedures.
 - Sterile technique
 - Sterilization techniques
 - Disinfection techniques
 - Skin antisepsis
 - Appropriate use of antibiotics

IC.01.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital's written infection prevention and control goals include limiting the transmission of infections associated with use of medical equipment, devices and supplies.
 - Sterilization and disinfection techniques
 - Cleaning equipment between patients
 - Avoidance of flash sterilization

IC.01.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital's written infection prevention and control goals include improving compliance with hand hygiene guidelines.
 - Secret shoppers
 - Availability and accessibility of hand hygiene products
 - Empowering the patients to remind staff
 - Monitoring of compliance

IC.01.05.01

Elements of Performance

- When developing infection prevention and control activities, the hospital uses evidence-based national guidelines or, in the absence of such guidelines, expert consensus.
 - CDC Isolation Guidelines
 - OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Guidelines
 - CDC and/ or WHO Hand Hygiene Guidelines

IC.01.05.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital's infection prevention and control plan includes a written description of the activities, including surveillance, to minimize, reduce, or eliminate the risk of infection.
 - Surveillance plan
 - Exposure control plan

IC.01.05.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital's infection prevention and control plan includes a written description of the process to evaluate the infection prevention and control plan.
 - Set measurable goals
 - Set reachable goals that are a stretch

IC.01.05.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital describes in writing the process for investigating outbreaks of infectious disease.
 - See also IC.02.01.01, EP 5
 - Attach outbreak investigation policy for documentation

IC.01.05.01

Elements of Performance

- All hospital components and functions are integrated into infection prevention and control activities.
 - See also HR.01.04.01, EPs 2 and 4
 - All staff should receive training on bloodborne pathogens
 - All departments should be included in the plan

IC.01.05.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital has a method for communicating responsibilities about preventing and controlling infection to licensed independent practitioners, staff, visitors, patients, and families. Information for visitors, patients, and families includes hand and respiratory hygiene practices.
 - See also
IC.02.01.01, EP 7

IC.01.05.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital identifies methods for reporting infection surveillance and control information to external organizations.
 - See also IC.02.01.01, EP 9
 - NHSN
 - STS
 - NDNQI

IC.01.06.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital identifies resources that can provide information about infections that could cause an influx of potentially infectious patients.
 - Resources can include local, state, and federal public health systems.
 - Work with Hospital Emergency Management

IC.01.06.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital obtains current clinical and epidemiological information from its resources regarding new infections that could cause an influx of potentially infectious patients.
 - H1N1 Pandemic
 - SARS

IC.01.06.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital has a method for communicating critical information to licensed independent practitioners and staff about emerging infections that could cause an influx of potentially infectious patients.
 - E-mail
 - Pagers
 - Active desktop

IC.01.06.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital describes, in writing, how it will respond to an influx of potentially infectious patients.
 - See also EM.01.01.01 EP 2
 - One acceptable response is to decide not to accept patients

IC.01.06.01

Elements of Performance

- If the hospital decides to accept an influx of potentially infectious patients, then the hospital describes in writing its methods for managing these patients over an extended period of time.

IC.01.06.01

Elements of Performance

- When the hospital determines it is necessary, the hospital activates its response to an influx of potentially infectious patients.

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital implements its infection prevention and control activities, including surveillance, to minimize, reduce or eliminate the risk of infection.

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital uses standard precautions including the use of PPE to reduce the risk of infection.
 - These precautions are general and applicable to all patients.
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod,dhap>

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital implements transmission based precautions in response to the pathogens that are suspected or identified within the hospital's service setting and community.
 - Specific guidelines based on the way the pathogen is transmitted.
 - Categories include contact, droplet, airborne, or a combination of these precautions.

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital investigates outbreaks of infectious disease.
 - See also IC.01.05.01, EP 5
 - Outbreak investigation policy and procedure
 - Surveillance procedure to identify outbreaks
 - Written report of investigation findings
 - Reporting of outbreak, investigation, and findings

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital minimizes the risk of infection when storing and disposing of infectious waste.
 - Waste management policy
 - Procedures related to the storage and transport of biohazardous waste
 - Training for staff

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital implements its methods to communicate responsibilities for preventing and controlling infection to licensed independent practitioners, staff, visitors, patients, and families includes hand and respiratory hygiene practices.
 - See also HR.01.04.01, EP 4; IC.01.05.01 EP 7

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital reports infection surveillance, prevention, and control information to the appropriate staff within the hospital.
 - Best Care Committee
 - Medical Executive Committee
 - Board of Managers
 - Staff Meetings

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital reports infection surveillance, prevention and control information to local, state, and federal public health authorities in accordance with law and regulation.
 - See also IC.01.05.01 EP 8
 - See list of reportable conditions

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- When the hospital becomes aware that it transferred a patient who has an infection requiring monitoring, treatment, and/or isolation, it informs the receiving organization.

IC.02.01.01

Elements of Performance

- When the hospital becomes aware that it received a patient from another organization who has an infection requiring action, and the infection was not communicated by the referring organization it informs the referring organization.
 - Infections requiring action include those that require isolation and/or public health reporting or those that may aid in the referring organization's surveillance.

IC.02.02.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital implements infection prevention and control activities when cleaning and performing low-level disinfection of medical equipment, devices, and supplies.
 - Low-level disinfection is used for items such as stethoscopes and blood glucose meters

IC.02.02.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital implements infection prevention and control activities when doing intermediate and high-level disinfection of medical equipment, devices and supplies.
 - See also EC.02.04.03, EP 4

IC.02.02.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital implements infection prevention and control activities when disposing of medical equipment, devices, and supplies.
 - What goes in biohazard waste?
 - What goes in sharps containers?
 - What goes in the regular trash?

IC.02.02.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital implements infection prevention and control activities when storing medical equipment, devices, and supplies.
 - Separate clean and dirty
 - Maintain distance from floor and ceiling

IC.02.02.01

Elements of Performance

- When reprocessing single-use devices, the hospital implements infection prevention and control activities that are consistent with regulatory and professional standards.
 - In-house reprocessing
 - Third- party reprocessing

IC.02.03.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital makes screening for exposure and/or immunity to infectious disease available to licensed independent practitioners and staff who may come in contact with infections at the workplace.
 - TB skin testing
 - MRV testing
 - Varicella testing
 - Hepatitis B testing

IC.02.03.01

Elements of Performance

- When licensed independent practitioners or staff have, or are suspected of having, an infectious disease that puts others at risk, the hospital provides them with or refers them for assessment and potential testing, prophylaxis/treatment, or counseling.

IC.02.03.01

Elements of Performance

- When licensed independent practitioners or staff have been occupationally exposed to an infectious disease, the hospital provides them with or refers them for assessment and potential testing, prophylaxis/treatment, or counseling.

IC.02.03.01

Elements of Performance

- When patients have been exposed to an infectious disease, the hospital provides them with or refers them for assessment and potential testing, prophylaxis/treatment, or counseling.

IC.02.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital establishes an annual influenza vaccination program that is offered to licensed independent practitioners and staff.

IC.02.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital educates licensed independent practitioners and staff about, at a minimum, the influenza vaccine; no-vaccine control and prevention measures; and the diagnosis, transmission, and impact of influenza.
 - See also HR.01.04.01, EP 4

IC.02.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital provides influenza vaccination at sites accessible to licensed independent practitioners and staff.
 - Round on the floors
 - Round in clinics
 - Have vaccine available in ED after hours and on weekends

IC.02.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital annually evaluates vaccination rates and the reasons given for declining the influenza vaccine.
 - Religious
 - Allergies
 - Don't feel it is effective
 - Never get the flu

IC.02.04.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital takes steps to increase influenza vaccination rates.
 - Incentives
 - Mandatory as condition of employment

IC.03.01.01

Elements of Performance

- The hospital evaluates the effectiveness of its infection prevention and control plan annually and whenever risks significantly change.

IC.03.01.01

- The evaluation includes a review of the infection prevention and control plan's prioritized risks.
 - Are goals met?
 - If they were not met what changes will be made?

IC.03.01.01

- The evaluation includes a review of the infection prevention and control plan's goals.
 - See also NPSG.07.01.01, EP 2
 - Will the goals change?
 - Will more goals be added?

IC.03.01.01

- The evaluation includes a review of the implementation of the infection prevention and control plan's activities.
 - Which activities were effective?
 - What activities will change?
 - What will be added?

IC.03.01.01

- Findings from the evaluation are communicated at least annually to the individuals or interdisciplinary group that manages the patient safety program.

IC.03.01.01

- The hospital uses the findings of its evaluation of the infection prevention and control program when revising the plan.
 - Make sure it is a flowing document that flows from the plan to the evaluation to the new plan.
 - Make sure that staff can speak to the elements of the plan and the goals
 - Make sure staff can speak to rates

Summary

- Make sure the prioritized risks are addressed in the plan.
- Make sure the staff can speak to the plan, goals and rates.
- Make sure that you are familiar with sterilization and disinfection practices in your facility.

References

- The Joint Commission E-dition Infection Prevention and Control Chapter retrieved from <http://e-edition.jcrinc.com/Chapters.aspx>

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