

**Pioneers in Quality**

# Infection Prevention and Control for Behavioral Health and Human Services (BHC)

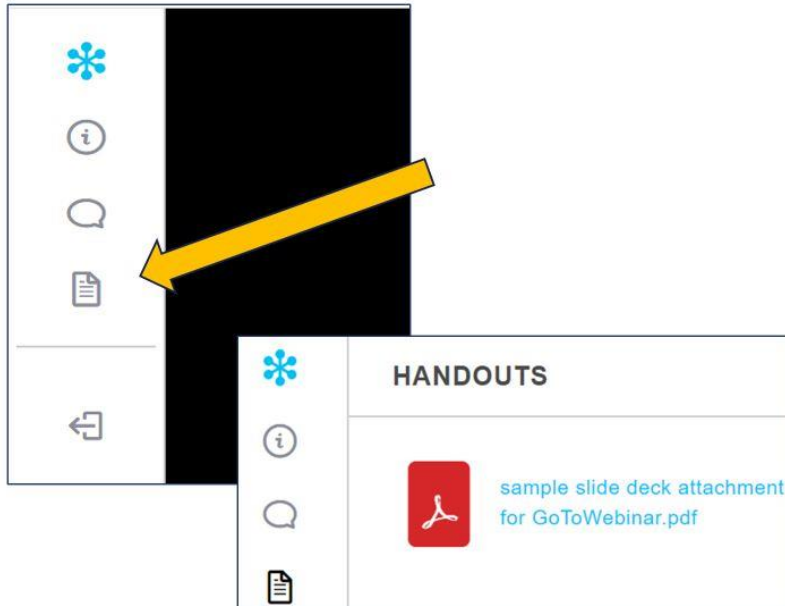
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May 2025 release

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# Participant Learning Objectives



- Discuss the rationale for the Infection Control standards rewrite
- Explain the structure and content of the new Infection Control standards and elements of performance
- Demonstrate application of the new Infection Prevention and Control Program Assessment Tool

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# Welcome & Introduction

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# Speakers



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# The New Joint Commission Infection Control Standards for Behavioral Health and Human Services

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Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations (ACO)

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4/15/2025

# IC Chapter Rewrite Initiative


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# Overview

- Changes for BHC effective July 1, 2025
- The IC chapter underwent a full rewrite and will replace the current IC chapter
- Chapter rewrite consistent with the ongoing initiative to:
  - Simplify requirements
  - Eliminate requirements that do not add value to accreditation surveys
  - Align requirements more closely to law and regulation and the CDC's Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices


# What Will the New Infection Control Chapter Look Like?

New Numbering Starts at  
IC.04.01.01



• Issued December 20, 2024 •

## Prepublication Requirements



### Revised Infection Control (IC) Chapter

The Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online *E-dition*®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical *The Joint Commission Perspectives*®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit <http://www.jcrinc.com>.

**Please note:** Where applicable, this report shows current standards and EPs first, with deleted language struck-through. Then, the revised requirement follows in bold text, with new language underlined.

APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE BASED SURGERY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM  
Effective July 1, 2025

Infection Prevention and Control (IC) Chapter

**IC.04.01.01**

The practice maintains an infection prevention and control program for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

**Element(s) of Performance for IC.04.01.01**

**New EP 1** The practice’s infection prevention and control program is under the direction of a designated

# What Will the New Infection Control Chapter Look Like?

Condensed and Reorganized

11 Standards  
40 Elements of Performance



2 Standards  
7 Elements of Performance



# How Do I Keep Track of all the Changes? A Reference Guide

- Posted with pre-publication standards on:

[Prepublication Standards | The Joint Commission](#)

- Shows how concepts transitioned from the old IC chapter to the new



Reference Guide: Infection Control Standards		
Effective July 1, 2025, for the Office Based Surgery Accreditation Program		
Infection Control Topic	Old IC Standard/EP	New IC Standard/EP
Individual(s) responsible for infection prevention and control	IC.01.01.01, EP 3	IC.04.01.01, EPs 1
Resources for infection prevention and control activities	IC.01.02.01, EPs 1,3	See LD.03.03.01 EP 2 LD.03.06.01 EP 2
Infection risk identification	IC.01.03.01, EPs 1,3	IC.06.01.01, EPs 1,2
Setting goals for/prioritizing infection prevention and control activities based on risk	IC.01.04.01, EP 1	IC.06.01.01, EP 1
Documentation of planned infection prevention and control activities	IC.01.05.01, EP 2	N/A
Requirements for infection control policies and procedures	N/A	IC.04.01.01, EPs 3,4, 10
Use of evidence-based national guidelines when developing infection prevention and control activities	IC.01.05.01, EP 1	IC.04.01.01, EP 3,4
Requirements for policies and procedures addressing the reprocessing reusable devices, including the use of manufacturers' instructions	N/A	IC.04.01.01, EP 4,10
Surveillance	IC.01.05.01, EP 2 IC.02.01.01, EP 1	IC.04.01.01, EP 3 IC.06.01.01, EP 6
Implementation of infection prevention and control activities, such as standard and transmission-based precautions, cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of medical equipment, devices and supplies, etc.	IC.02.01.01, EPs 1,2,3,4, 10,11 IC.02.02.01, EPs 1,2,4,5	IC.06.01.01, EP 3
Storage and disposal of infectious waste	IC.02.01.01, EP 6 IC.02.02.01, EP 3	See EC.02.02.01 LD.04.01.01 EP 2
Communication of information to staff, visitors, patients, families on responsibilities in infection prevention and control, e.g., posters or pamphlets	IC.02.01.01, EP 7	IC.06.01.01, EP 3

# What Requirements were Eliminated?

- Individual(s) responsible for the program (IC.01.01.01)
- Findings from the evaluation are communicated at least annually to leadership (IC.03.01.01. EP 6)
  - \* *Intent*: Organization determines how oversight is ensured (see LD.02.03.01 EP 1)

# What Requirements were Eliminated? Continued

- Infection prevention and control written goals (IC.01.04.01)
- Documentation of planned infection prevention and control activities (IC.01.05.01)
  - \* *Intent:* Organization can determine its own process

# What Requirements were Eliminated? Continued

- Preparing to respond to an increased number of infectious individuals (IC.01.06.01)
  - \* *Intent:* Eliminated redundancies with EM requirements
- Staff influenza vaccination/goals/data (IC.02.04.01)
  - \* *Intent:* Practice to follow its policies and procedures and law and regulation

# What Requirements were Retained?

- Adherence to nationally recognized guidelines and standards of practice
- Assessment of risk for infection/contamination/exposure
- Evaluation of activities and action plan when issues arise
- NPSG.07.01.01 on hand hygiene and goals

# What Was Added?

- Linen management (24-hour/group/residential settings)

# The New Structure of the Infection Control Chapter

## “Set up a Program”



**IC.04.01.01** The practice maintains an infection prevention and control program for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

**\*Policies \*Resources**

## “Do IC activities”



**IC.06.01.01** The practice implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

**\*Annual Risk Assessment \*IC Activities \*Action Plan \*Linen**

# New Infection Control Tool Added to Organization SAG



## Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for the Behavioral Health Care and Human Services Program

Table. Elements of Performance Applicability Grid by Settings and Services

EP	24-hr Therapeutic School	Adult Day Care	Community-Based Homes	Correctional Services	Day Treatment	Forensic Services	Group Homes	In-Home Care, Treatment or Services	Inpatient Crisis Stabilization	Intensive Outpatient Program	Outdoor Treatment/ Wilderness Program	Outpatient CTS**/Staff Offices	Partial Hospitalization	Residential Care, Treatment, or Services	Therapeutic Day School	Transitional/ Supportive Living	Shelter	Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic	Foster Care
<b>IC.04.01.01</b>																			
3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	NA
9	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	NA
<b>IC.06.01.01</b>																			
1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	NA
2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	NA
3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	NA
6	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	NA
8	x						x		x					x			x		NA

\*\*CTS Care, Treatment, and Services. Note: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic may provide several types of services/settings.

Required Documents:



# New Infection Control Tool in SAG continued

- Provides details and clarification on requirements
- Identifies activities that could be evaluated during survey
- Includes new standard and EP references
- Will be added to the Practice Survey Activity Guide in Spring 2025

# Highlights of the Updated BHC Infection Control Standards

## **Effective July 1, 2025**

# Applicability Grid

## Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for the Behavioral Health Care and Human Services Program

Table. Elements of Performance Applicability Grid by Settings and Services

EP	24-hr Therapeutic School	Adult Day Care	Community-Based Homes	Correctional Services	Day Treatment	Forensic Services	Group Homes	In-Home Care, Treatment or Services	Inpatient Crisis Stabilization	Intensive Outpatient Program	Outdoor Treatment/ Wilderness Program	Outpatient CTS**/Staff Offices	Partial Hospitalization	Residential Care, Treatment, or Services	Therapeutic Day School	Transitional/ Supportive Living	Shelter	Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic	Foster Care
<b>IC.04.01.01</b>																			
3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA
9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA
<b>IC.06.01.01</b>																			
1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA
2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA
3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA
6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA
8	X						X		X					X			X		NA

\*\*CTS Care, Treatment, and Services. Note: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic may provide several types of services/settings.

# Structure of the Updated BHC Infection Control Standards

IC.04.01.01 The organization establishes processes for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

IC.06.01.01 The organization implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

## IC.04.01.01

The organization establishes processes for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

# Policies and Procedures

**IC.04.01.01 EP 3** The organization has policies and procedures that are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice, including the use of standard precautions.

## Standard Precautions include the following:

- Hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, injection and medication safety (if applicable to organization), appropriate use of personal protective equipment based on the nature of the interaction and potential for exposure to blood, body fluids and/or infectious material, minimizing potential exposures (respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette), cleaning and disinfection of reusable medical equipment between each patient and when soiled (if applicable)

For organizations that use and manage temporary invasive medical devices (for example, intravascular catheter): The organization has policies and procedures on the management of invasive medical devices used among the organization's population.

For organizations that use the point-of-care testing devices (for example, blood glucose meter): The organization has policies and procedures on cleaning and disinfection after every use according to device and disinfectant manufacturers' instructions.

**IC.04.01.01 EP 9** The organization provides supplies to support infection prevention and control activities.

## Examples of supplies include:

- Supplies necessary for adherence to hand hygiene (such as alcohol-based hand rub, soap, water, and a sink) are readily accessible in all areas where care is being delivered.
- Alcohol-based hand rub is readily accessible and placed in appropriate locations where it can be accessed by the staff, individuals served, and visitors. The locations may include entrances to facilities or care areas, staff workstations, residential areas.
- The organization determines, based on its risk assessment, what personal protective equipment (PPE) is available, based on the nature of care interactions and potential for exposure to blood, body fluids and/or infectious material.
- Disinfection supplies

## IC.06.01.01

The organization implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.



# Risk Assessment

**IC.06.01.01 EP 1** To prioritize the infection prevention and control program's activities and determine what resources are necessary for the program, the organization identifies risks for infection, contamination, and exposure that pose a risk to individuals served and staff based on the following:

Care, treatment, and services it provides

Relevant infection control issues identified by the local, state, or federal public health authorities that could impact the organization

Risk from organisms with a propensity for transmission within healthcare and residential facilities

**IC.06.01.01 EP 2** The organization reviews identified risks at least annually or whenever significant changes in risk occur (for example, in response to local infectious diseases outbreaks).

Note: Risk identification may be based on auditing activities and identified lapses in infection prevention and control practices. Organizations may use assessment checklists from established authorities

# Implementation of Infection Control Activities

**IC.06.01.01 EP 3** The organization implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases, including the use of standard precautions.

Includes, but is not limited to:

- Standard Precautions
  - Hand Hygiene
  - Safe Injection Practices
  - Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection
  - Personal Protective Equipment
  - Minimizing potential exposures
  - Cleaning and Disinfection of Reusable Equipment
  - Invasive Medical Devices

# Hand Hygiene

Is performed, at a minimum, as follows:

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Before contact with an individual served

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Before performing an aseptic task (for example, insertion of IV, preparing an injection, performing woundcare)

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After contact with the individual served

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After contact with blood, body fluids, or contaminated surfaces

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Moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site during direct care

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After removal of personal protective equipment (PPE).



# Safe Injection Practices



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Use of aseptic technique when preparing and administering medications in an area that has been cleaned and separated from potential sources of contamination (for example, body fluids, sinks or other watersources)

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Not reusing needles, lancets, or syringes for more than one use on one individual served

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Not administering medications from a single-dose vial or ampule to multiple individuals served o Use of fluid infusion and administration sets (intravenous bags, tubing, and connectors) for one individual served only and appropriate disposal after use

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Considering a syringe or needle/cannula contaminated once it has been used to enter or connect to a individual's served intravenous infusion bag or administration set

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Entering medication containers with a new needle and a new syringe even when obtaining additional doses for the same individual served

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Dedicating insulin pens for a single individual served and never sharing, even if the needle is changed o Disposing of sharps in accordance with applicable state and local laws and regulations.

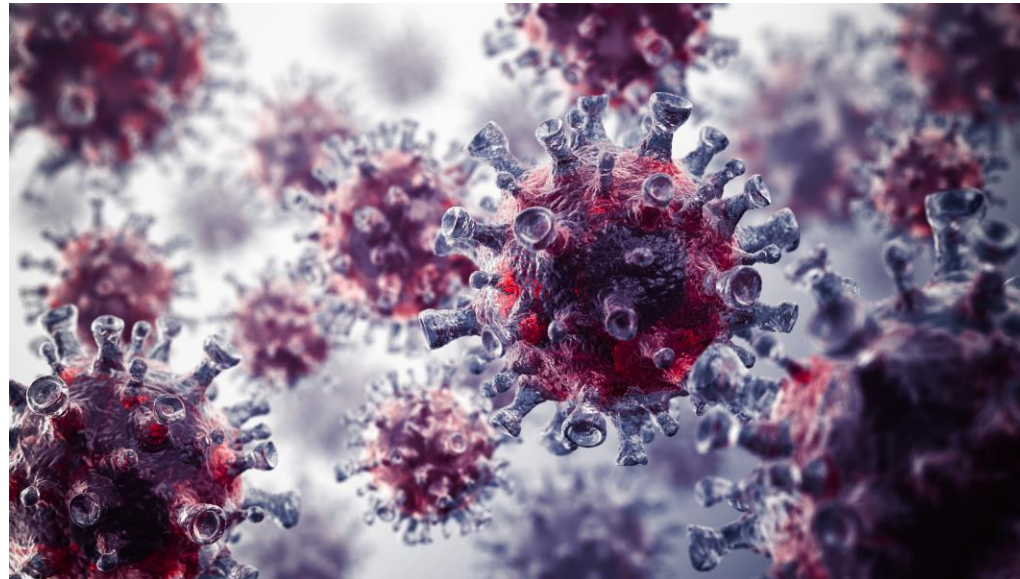
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# Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

Cleaners and disinfectants, including disposable wipes, are used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions

Examples include:

- Dilution
- Storage
- Shelf-life
- Contact time



# Personal Protective Equipment

Staff have immediate access to PPE and are able to select, put on, remove, and dispose of PPE in a manner that avoids contamination

Gloves are worn when it can be reasonably anticipated that contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, nonintact skin, potentially contaminated skin, or contaminated equipment could occur.

Staff change gloves and perform hand hygiene before moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site.

Staff wear a gown that is appropriate to the task to protect skin and prevent soiling of clothing during procedures and activities that could cause contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions.

# Minimizing Potential Exposures

The organization prompts individuals served and visitors with symptoms of respiratory infection to contain their respiratory secretions and perform hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions by providing tissues, masks, hand hygiene supplies and instructional signage or handouts at points of entry and throughout the organization





# Cleaning and Disinfection



Reusable medical equipment (for example, blood glucose meters, blood pressure cuffs, oximeter probes) are cleaned/disinfected prior to use on another individual served and when soiled.

Staff maintain separation between clean and soiled equipment to prevent cross contamination.

Single-use equipment is discarded after use.

Point of care devices intended for individual use (for example, a glucometer) are not used on multiple individuals



# Invasive Medical Devices

Staff adhere to invasive medical devices maintenance practices, in accordance with organization policies and procedures



# Action Plans

## IC.06.01.01 EP 6

The organization develops and implements action plans when infection control issues arise, including non-adherence with infection control policies and procedures.

Note: The organization evaluates and revises its plan as needed.

### **Actions may include the following:**

1. Policy, procedure, or practice changes
2. Education for individuals served, caregivers, and staff regarding transmission of communicable diseases and prevention of infections
3. Development of process metrics that could be used to monitor and address identified issues (for example, infection prevention and control observations for technique)

# Management of Linens

## In Applicable Locations

### **IC.06.01.01 EP8** Staff handle, store, process, and transport linens in accordance with local or state regulations

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Staff handle, store, process, and transport linens in accordance with local or state regulations.

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Soiled textiles/laundry are handled with minimum agitation to avoid contamination of air, surfaces, and persons.

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Clean textiles/linens are covered if stored in a clean area or may be uncovered if stored in a dedicated clean storage area.



# Infection Prevention and Control & Antibiotic Stewardship Resource Center Navigational Demo

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# Additional Resources

The pre-publication standards are available online:

<https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/standards/prepublications/2025/bhc.pdf>

Perspective Article January 2025

[https://jointcommission.pdx1.qualtrics.com/ControlPanel/File.php?F=F\\_zmWZ3Y0Yv0w7lf8](https://jointcommission.pdx1.qualtrics.com/ControlPanel/File.php?F=F_zmWZ3Y0Yv0w7lf8)



CDC's Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings

<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/core-practices/index.html>

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