

Pioneers in Quality

Infection Prevention and Control for Assisted Living Communities (ALC) & Nursing Care Centers (NCC)

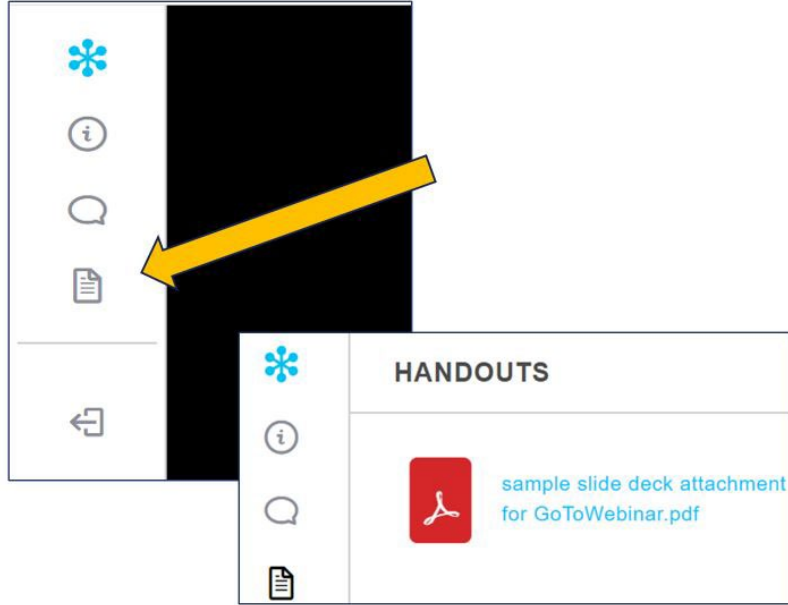
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Learning Objectives



- 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 Infection Prevention and Control Program Assessment Tool
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Disclosure Statement

These staff and speakers have disclosed that they do not have any conflicts of interest. For example, financial arrangements, affiliations with, or ownership of organizations that provide grants, consultancies, honoraria, travel, or other benefits that would impact the presentation of today's webinar content.

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Welcome & Introduction

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The New Joint Commission Infection Control Standards for the Nursing Care Center (NCC) and Assisted Living Community (ALC) Programs

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October 31, 2024

IC Chapter Rewrite Initiative

Overview

Changes for ALC and NCC effective January 1, 2025

The IC chapter underwent a full rewrite and will replace the current IC chapter for all accreditation programs

Consistent with the ongoing initiative to:

1. Simplify requirements
2. Eliminate requirements that do not add value to accreditation surveys
3. Align requirements more closely to law and regulation, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Conditions of Participation (CoPs), 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

APPLICABLE TO THE ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Effective January 1, 2025

Infection Prevention and Control (IC) Chapter

IC.04.01.01

The organization maintains and documents an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.

Element(s) of Performance for IC.04.01.01

New EP 1 The organization assigns responsibility for the infection prevention and control program to one or more individuals.
(See also HR.01.01.01, EP 1)

New EP 3 The organization's infection prevention and control program has written procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling infections and communicable diseases. The policies and procedures

APPLICABLE TO THE NURSING CARE CENTERS ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Effective January 1, 2025

Infection Prevention and Control (IC) Chapter

IC.04.01.01

The organization establishes and maintains an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.

Element(s) of Performance for IC.04.01.01

New EP 1 The organization designates one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) who is responsible for the infection prevention and control program. The infection preventionist(s) or infection control professional(s) meets all of the following criteria:

- Has primary professional training in nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology, or other related field
- Is qualified by education, training, experience or certification
- Works at least part-time at the organization
- Has completed specialized training in infection prevention and control

(See also HR.01.01.01, EP 1)

What Will the New Infection Control Chapter Look Like?

Condensed and Reorganized

NCC Program

13 Standards
49 Elements of Performance



2 Standards
10 Elements of Performance

What Will the New Infection Control Chapter Look Like?

Condensed and Reorganized

ALC Program



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 January 1, 2025, for Nursing Care Center (NCC) Only		
Infection Control Topic	Old IC Standard/EP	New IC Standard/EP
An individual(s) responsible for the infection prevention and control program	IC.01.01.01, EPs 1,2,3,4	IC.04.01.01, EPs 1,2
Resources for the infection prevention and control program	IC.01.02.01, EPs 1,3	See LD.01.03.01 EP 5
Infection risk identification	IC.01.03.01, EP 1	IC.06.01.01, EP 1
Annual review of infection control risks or whenever significant changes in risk occur	N/A	IC.06.01.01, EP 2
Prioritizing infection prevention and control activities based on risk	IC.01.04.01, EP 1	IC.06.01.01, EP 1
Infection prevention and control plan	IC.01.05.01, EPs 1,2,12	N/A
Requirements for infection control policies and procedures	N/A	IC.04.01.01, EP 3
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
Use of public health and safety data	IC.01.06.01, EP 2	IC.06.01.01 EP 1
Surveillance of infections or infection control processes	IC.01.05.01, EP 2 IC.02.01.01, EP 1	IC.06.01.01, EP 3
Outbreak management	IC.02.01.01, EP 5	IC.04.01.01, EP 3
Response to an increased number of potentially infectious residents	IC.01.06.01, EP 2,3,4	See EM requirements
Implementation of infection prevention and control activities, including cleaning	IC.02.01.01, EPs 1,2,3	IC.06.01.01, EP 3

What Requirements were Eliminated?

- **NCC:** Infection prevention written goals (IC.01.04.01)
- **NCC:** Staff vaccination rates/goals/data (IC.02.04.01)

What Requirements were Retained? Continued

- **NCC:** Vaccinations for patients, residents, and staff

The New Structure of the Infection Control Chapter

“Set up a Program”



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

***Leader *Policies *Staff Training *Supplies**

“Do IC activities”



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

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

New Infection Control Tool in SAG



Infection Prevention and Control Program Assessment Tool – Nursing Care Center

Required Documents and Data

- Assessment of infection risks
Note: Performed at least annually, the format is determined by the organization.
- Infection prevention and control policies and procedures that guide program activities and methods (in electronic or paper form)
- Documentation of completed job-specific staff education, training, and competencies on infection control and prevention
- Program documents demonstrating that the problems identified by the infection prevention and control program have been reviewed and addressed in collaboration with the organization's quality assessment and performance improvement leaders
Note: The format of this documentation is determined by the organization. Examples may include relevant committee meeting agendas and minutes, presentations, reports, planning documents.

Table: Elements of Compliance and Scoring Guidance

Elements of Compliance	Standard(s)/EP(s)
1. Infection Prevention and Control Program & Infection Preventionist	
1. The organization designates one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) who is responsible for the infection prevention and control program. The infection preventionist(s) or infection control professional(s) meets all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Has primary professional training in nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology, or other related fieldb. Is qualified by education, training, experience or certificationc. Works at least part-time at the organizationd. Has completed specialized training in infection prevention and control Note: Examples of training may include in-person or online courses or training from recognized entities (state public health, CDC), professional associations and societies (APIC, SHEA, IDSA, AMDA, etc.), and colleges and universities.	IC.04.01.01 EP 1
2. The infection preventionist(s) collaborates with the organization's quality assessment and improvement leaders and updates the	IC.04.01.01 EP 2

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 Organization Survey Activity Guide in
Fall 2024

Where to locate the Infection Control Tool now

Available on the **Extranet**:

> **Survey Process Tab**

>> In **Pre-Survey** menu, click on "**Survey Activity Guide**"

>>> Scroll down to "**Additional Resources**"

Additional Resources

- [Life Safety and Environment of Care Document List and Review Tool for Critical Access Hospitals](#)
- [Life Safety and Environment of Care Document List and Review Tool for Hospitals](#)
- [What Happens After Your Joint Commission Survey](#)
- **New** [Infection Prevention and Control Program Assessment Tool for Critical Access Hospitals and Hospitals](#) (effective July 1, 2024)

Note: For more information refer to January 2024 *Perspectives*

- **New** [Infection Prevention and Control Program Assessment Tool for Assisted Living Communities](#) (effective January 1, 2025)

Note: For more information refer to the July 2024 *Perspectives*

- **New** [Infection Prevention and Control Program Assessment Tool for Nursing Care Centers](#) (effective January 1, 2025)



The Updated Infection Control Standards for Nursing Care Center (NCC)

Effective January 1, 2025

What Will the New NCC Infection Control Chapter Look Like?

APPLICABLE TO THE NURSING HOME CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
Effective January 1, 2026

Infection Prevention and Control (IC) Chapter

IC.04.01.01

The organization establishes and maintains an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.

Element(s) of Performance for IC.04.01.01

New EP 1 The organization designates one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) who is responsible for the infection prevention and control program. The infection preventionist(s) or infection control professional(s) meets all of the following criteria:

- Has primary professional training in nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology, or other related field
- Is qualified by education, training, experience or certification
- Works at least part-time at the organization
- Has completed specialized training in infection prevention and control

(See also: HLE.01.01.01, EP 1)

New EP 2 The infection preventionist(s) collaborates with the organization's quality assessment and improvement leaders and updates the leaders on the infection prevention and control program on a regular basis.

New EP 3 The organization's infection prevention and control program has written policies and procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and communicable diseases. The policies and procedures are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice. The policies and procedures address the following, at a minimum:

- A system of surveillance designed to identify possible communicable diseases or infections before they can spread to other persons in the organization
- When and to whom possible incidents of communicable disease or infections should be reported
- Standard and transmission-based precautions to be followed to prevent spread of infections
- When and how isolation should be used for a patient or resident, including but not limited to, the type and duration of isolation and a requirement that the isolation is the least restrictive possible for the patient or resident under the circumstances
- Circumstances under which the organization prohibits employees with a communicable disease or infected skin lesions from direct contact with patients or residents or their food, if direct contact will transmit the disease
- Hand hygiene procedures to be followed by staff involved in direct patient or resident contact

Note: Standard precautions include hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, injection and medication safety, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), minimizing potential exposures, and reprocessing of reusable medical equipment or devices. For full details on standard precautions, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrolguidelines/core-practices/index.html>

D Documentation is required

IC.06.01.01

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

Element(s) of Performance for IC.06.01.01

New EP 1 To prioritize the 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 patients, residents, and staff based on the following:

- Its geographic location, community, and population served
- Care, treatment, and services it provides
- Analysis of surveillance activities and other infection control data
- Relevant infection control issues identified by the local, state, or federal public health authorities that could impact the organization

Note: Risks may include organisms with a propensity for transmission within health care facilities based on published reports and the occurrence of clusters of patients (for example, norovirus, respiratory syncytial virus [RSV], influenza, measles, organisms with antimicrobial resistance such as Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriales [CRE], Candida auris). (See also: EC.02.05.02, EP 2; EC.02.06.04, EP 2)

D Documentation is required

New EP 2 The organization reviews identified risks at least annually or whenever significant changes in risk occur.

D Documentation is required

New EP 3 Based on its assessment, the organization implements activities for the surveillance, identification, reporting, investigation, prevention, and control of infections and communicable diseases. (See also: NPSG.07.01.01, EP 1)

New EP 4 The organization develops and implements necessary action plans to address infection control issues and improve its infection prevention and control program.

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

D Documentation is required

New EP 5 Staff hands, store, process, and transport linens so as to prevent the spread of infection.

IC.06.01.03

The organization implements policies and procedures to help prevent and control the development and transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases among patients, residents, and staff.

Element(s) of Performance for IC.06.01.03

New EP 1 The organization offers recommended vaccinations, including influenza, pneumococcal disease, and COVID-19, to patients or residents, unless the vaccination is medically contraindicated or the patient or resident has already been immunized.

Note 1: The organization follows national guidelines on when to administer recommended vaccinations to a patient or resident.

Note 2: Before offering vaccination, the organization provides education to patients and residents and their surrogate decision-makers on the benefits and potential side effects of vaccination.

Note 3: The organization gives the patient or resident or their surrogate decision-maker the opportunity to refuse vaccination.

Note 4: Receipt or nonreceipt of vaccination due to medical contraindication or refusal is documented in the patient's or resident's medical record.

D Documentation is required

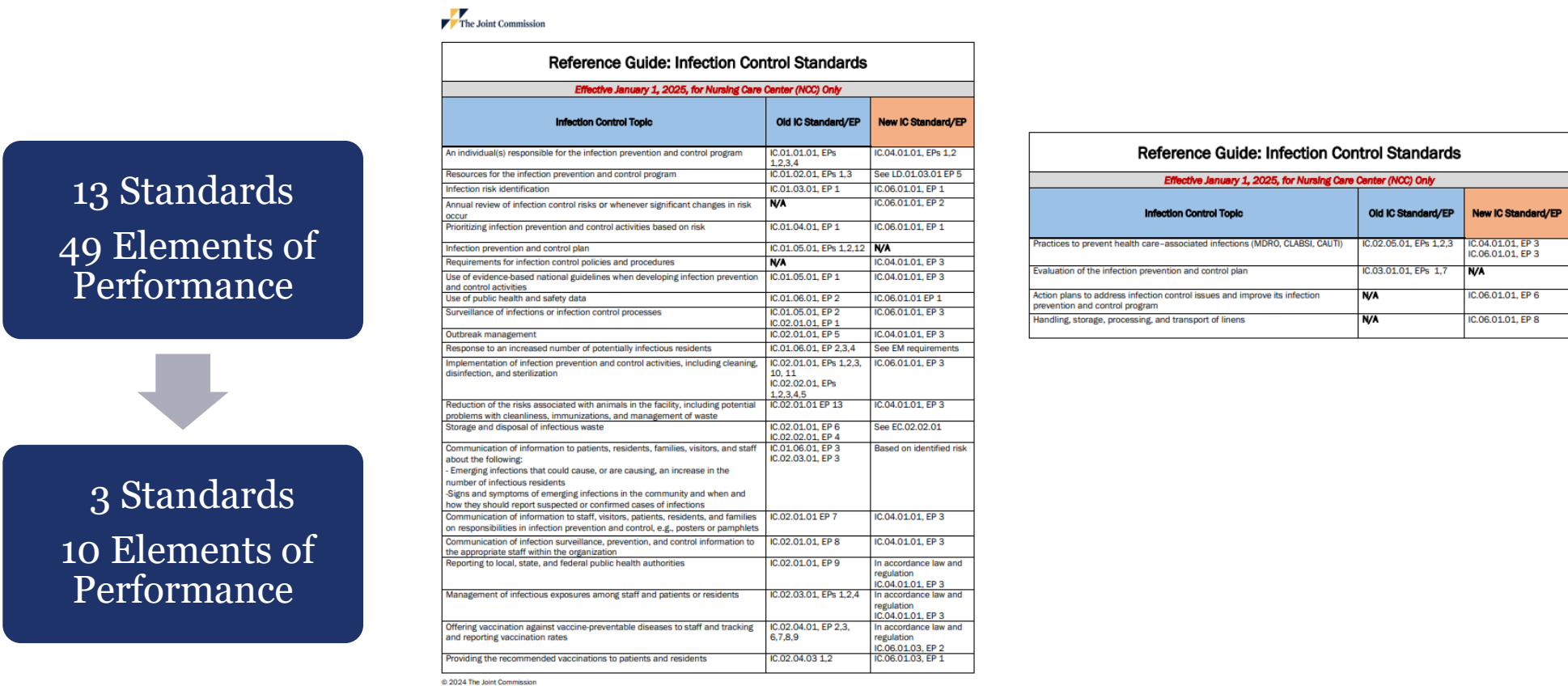
New EP 2 The organization offers recommended vaccinations, including the COVID-19 vaccination at a minimum, to staff.

Note 1: The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) provides vaccine-specific recommendations and guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/imz/index.html>.

Note 2: Before offering vaccination, the organization provides education to staff on the benefits and potential side effects of vaccination.

What Will the New NCC Infection Control Chapter Look Like?

Condensed and Reorganized Standards/Elements of Performance



Many Requirements Have Been Clarified



Infection Prevention and Control Program Assessment Tool – Nursing Care Center

Required Documents and Data

- Assessment of infection risks
Note: Performed at least annually, the format is determined by the organization.
- Infection prevention and control policies and procedures that guide program activities and methods (in electronic or paper form)
- Documentation of completed job-specific staff education, training, and competencies on infection control and prevention
- Program documents demonstrating that the problems identified by the infection prevention and control program have been reviewed and addressed in collaboration with the organization's quality assessment and performance improvement leaders
Note: The format of this documentation is determined by the organization. Examples may include relevant committee meeting agendas and minutes, presentations, reports, planning documents.

In a new Infection Prevention and Control Program Assessment Tool

Table: Elements of Compliance and Scoring Guidance

Elements of Compliance	Standard(s)/EP(s)
1. Infection Prevention and Control Program & Infection Preventionist	
1. The organization designates one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) who is responsible for the infection prevention and control program. The infection preventionist(s) or infection control professional(s) meets all of the following criteria: a. Has primary professional training in nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology, or other related field b. Is qualified by education, training, experience or certification c. Works at least part-time at the organization d. Has completed specialized training in infection prevention and control Note: Examples of training may include in-person or online courses or training from recognized entities (state public health, CDC), professional associations and societies (APIC, SHEA, IDSA, AMDA, etc.), and colleges and universities.	IC.04.01.01 EP 1
2. The infection preventionist(s) collaborates with the organization's quality assessment and improvement leaders and updates the leaders on the infection prevention and control program on a regular basis. Note: Collaboration includes providing documentation of incidents of communicable disease and infections identified in the organization to quality assessment and improvement leaders.	IC.04.01.01 EP 2
3. The organization develops and implements necessary action plans to address infection control issues and improve its infection prevention and control program. This includes: a. The organization infection prevention and control policies and procedures are reviewed at least annually to ensure effectiveness and that they are in accordance with current standards of practice for preventing and controlling infections. The program is then updated as necessary. b. If the organization population and its characteristics change, the organization identifies components of the infection prevention and control program that must be changed accordingly. Note: The organization evaluates and revises its plan as needed.	IC.06.01.01 EP 6
2. Program Policies and Procedures	
1. The organization's infection prevention and control program has written policies and procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and communicable diseases. The policies and procedures are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice.	IC.04.01.01 EP 3

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Required Documents and Data

- Assessment of infection risks

Note: Performed at least annually, the format is determined by the organization.

- Infection prevention and control policies and procedures that guide program activities and methods (in electronic or paper form)
- Documentation of completed job-specific staff education, training, and competencies on infection control and prevention
- Program documents demonstrating that the problems identified by the infection prevention and control program have been reviewed and addressed in collaboration with the organization's quality assessment and performance improvement leaders

Note: The format of this documentation is determined by the organization. Examples may include relevant committee meeting agendas and minutes, presentations, reports, planning documents.

Key: (D) indicates that documentation is required

Highlights of the Updated NCC Infection Control Standards

Effective January 1, 2025

Structure of the Updated NCC Infection Control Standards

IC.04.01.01 The organization establishes and maintains an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.

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

IC.06.01.03 The organization implements policies and procedures to help prevent and control the development and transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases among patients, residents, and staff.

IC.04.01.01

The organization establishes and maintains an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.

Designated Infection Preventionist

IC.04.01.01 EP 1 The organization designates one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) who is responsible for the infection prevention and control program.

The infection preventionist(s) or infection control professional(s) meets all of the following criteria:

- Has primary professional training in nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology, or other related field
- Is qualified by education, training, experience or certification
- Works at least part-time at the organization
- Has completed specialized training in infection prevention and control

(See also HR.01.01.01, EP 1)

Note: Examples of training may include in-person or online courses or training from recognized entities (state public health, CDC), professional associations and societies (APIC, SHEA, IDSA, AMDA, etc.), and colleges and universities.

Collaboration with Leaders

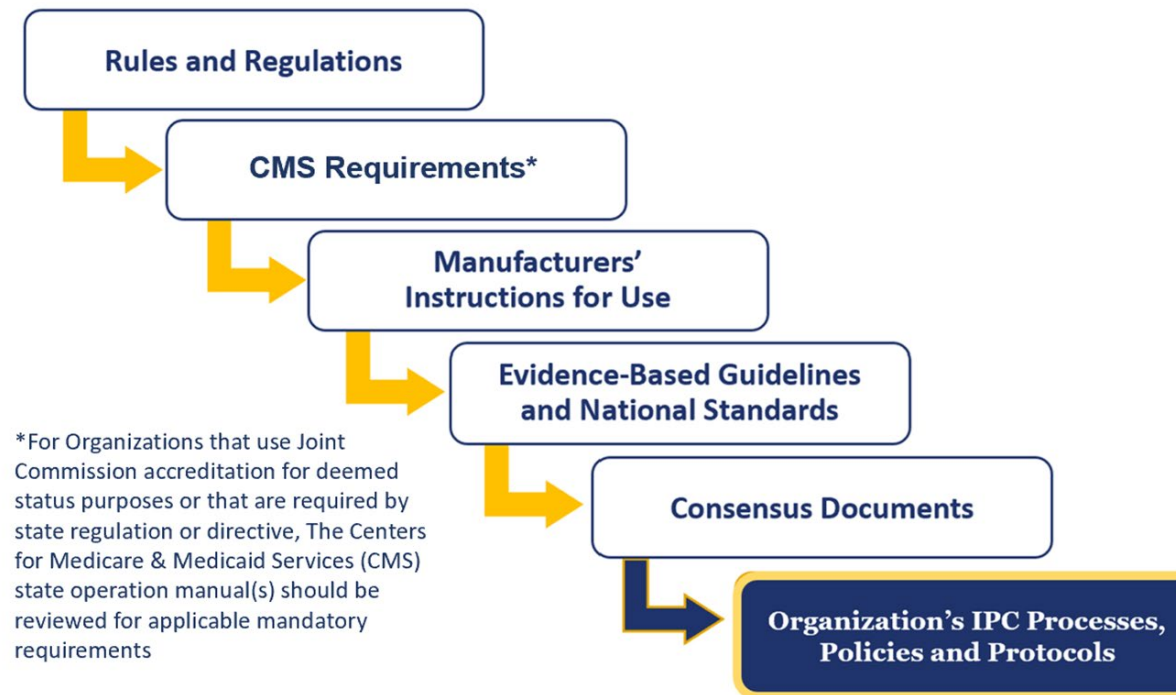
IC.04.01.01 EP 2

The infection preventionist(s) collaborates with the organization's quality assessment and improvement leaders and updates the leaders on the infection prevention and control program on a regular basis.

Note: Collaboration includes providing documentation of incidents of communicable disease and infections identified in the organization to quality assessment and improvement leaders.

IC.04.01.01 EP 3 The organization's infection prevention and control program has written policies and procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and communicable diseases.

The policies and procedures are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice.



Modified from April 2019 Perspectives (available at <https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/resources/patient-safety-topics/infection-prevention-and-hai/ic-hierarchical-approach-to-scoring-standards-april-2019-perspectives.pdf>) © The Joint Commission. Used with permission.

The written policies and procedures address the following, at a minimum:

A system of surveillance designed to identify possible communicable diseases or infections before they can spread to other persons in the organization

When and to whom possible incidents of communicable disease or infections should be reported

Standard and transmission-based precautions to be followed to prevent spread of infections

When and how isolation should be used for a patient or resident, including but not limited to, the type and duration of isolation and a requirement that the isolation is the least restrictive possible for the patient or resident under the circumstances

Circumstances under which the organization prohibits employees with a communicable disease or infected skin lesions from direct contact with patients or residents or their food, if direct contact will transmit the disease

Hand hygiene procedures to be followed by staff involved in direct patient or resident contact

Note: Standard precautions include hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, injection and medication safety, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), minimizing potential exposures, and reprocessing of reusable medical equipment or devices. For full details on standard precautions, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/corepractices/index.html>

Enhanced Barrier Precautions

When enhanced barrier precautions (EBP) are used by the organization, the policies and procedures must identify:

The criteria

Required personal
protective equipment
(PPE) for high-contact
activities

Duration of the
enhanced barrier
precautions

Note: The rationale for using enhanced barrier precautions in nursing homes includes the high prevalence of multidrug-resistant organism colonization among residents and the presence of indwelling a medical device and/or wound (regardless of MDRO colonization or infection status). EBP are indicated for residents with any of the following:

- Infection or colonization with a CDC-targeted MDRO when Contact Precautions do not otherwise apply; or
- Wounds and/or indwelling medical devices even if the resident is not known to be infected or colonized with a MDRO

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 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 patients, residents, and staff based on the following:



IC.06.01.01 EP 2 The organization reviews identified risks at least annually or whenever significant changes in risk occur.

Other areas where Infection Control risks are addressed include:

- Collaborate with water management program to identify locations where *Legionella* and other opportunistic waterborne pathogens could grow/spread

Implementation of Infection Control Activities

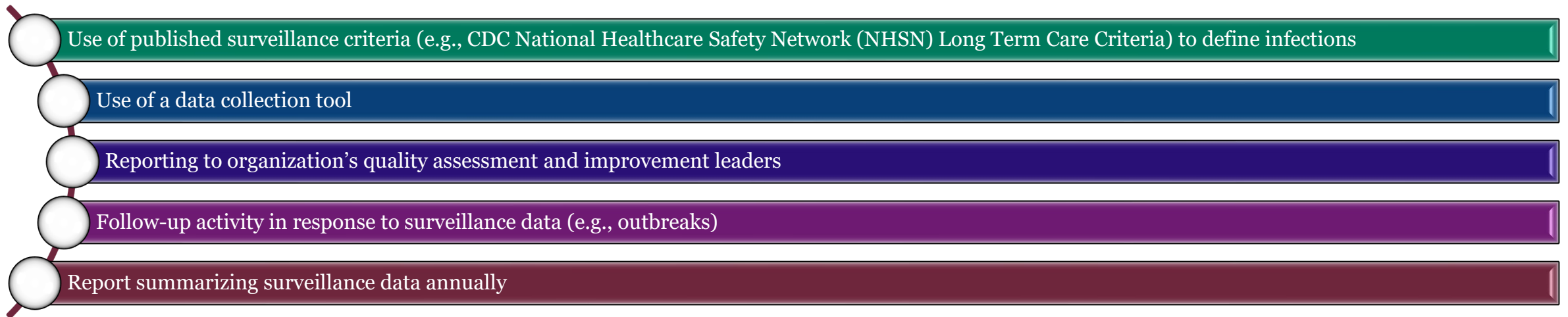
IC.06.01.01 EP 3 Based on its assessment, the organization implements activities for the surveillance, identification, reporting, investigation, prevention, and control of infections and communicable diseases. (See also NPSG.07.01.01, EP 1)

Includes, but is not limited to:

- Standard Precautions
 - Hand Hygiene, Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection, Injection and Sharps Safety, Personal Protective Equipment, Minimizing potential exposures
 - Reprocessing reusable medical equipment
- Transmission-based Precautions
- Invasive Medical Devices for Clinical Management
- Wound Management
- Laundry and Linen
- Preventing and Controlling the Development and Transmission of Vaccine-preventable Diseases Among Patients, Residents, and Staff

Surveillance

- The organization implements a system for the notification of the infection preventionist by clinical laboratory about the resident's colonization status and/or infection.
- The organization has an established system for surveillance based on the national standards of practice and the organization assessment, including the patient and resident population and care and services provided. The organization's surveillance practices include:



- The organization has a current list of communicable diseases which are reportable to local/state public health authorities.
- The organization staff can demonstrate knowledge of when and to whom to report infectious, communicable diseases, contamination or exposure, or infection control breaches

Education, Training and Competency Assessment

The organization provides job-specific training and education on infection prevention and control. The staff's records confirm completion of education and training.

- Note 1: Job-specific means that education and training are consistent with or tailored to the performed roles and responsibilities. For example, environmental services staff must be trained in the methods and procedures for surface disinfection.
- Note 2: The training and education must include the practical applications of infection prevention and control guidelines, policies, and procedures.

The organization provides training to staff expected to have contact with blood or other potentially infectious material on the blood borne pathogen standards upon hire, at regular intervals, and as needed.

The organization staff receive training in the following:

- When personal protective equipment (PPE) is necessary
- What PPE is necessary
- How to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE

The organization defines and assesses staff competency in infection prevention and control.

Note: Competencies must be job-specific, for example, the staff who manage indwelling medical devices demonstrate competency in access and maintenance of central venous catheters and /or care, maintenance, and removal of urinary catheters

Action Plans

IC.06.01.01 EP 6

The organization develops and implements necessary action plans to address infection control issues and improve its infection prevention and control program. Note: The organization evaluates and revises its plan as needed.

This includes:

- The organization infection prevention and control policies and procedures are reviewed at least annually to ensure effectiveness and that they are in accordance with current standards of practice for preventing and controlling infections.
- The program is then updated as necessary.
- If the organization population and its characteristics change, the organization identifies components of the infection prevention and control program that must be changed accordingly.

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

Management of Linens

IC.06.01.01 EP8

Staff handle, store, process, and transport linens so as to prevent the spread of infection.

15. Laundry & Linen	
1.	Soiled textiles/laundry are handled with minimum agitation to avoid contamination of air, surfaces, and persons.
2.	Soiled linens are bagged or otherwise contained at the point of collection in leak-proof containers or bags and are not sorted or rinsed in the location of use. Note: Covers are not needed on contaminated textile hampers in patient/resident care areas.
3.	Clean linen are packaged, transported, and stored in a manner that ensures cleanliness and protection from contamination (e.g., dust and soil).
4.	The organization implements its policy for cleaning and disinfecting linen carts on the premises or for cart exchange off the premises.
5.	The receiving area for contaminated/soiled linen is clearly separated from clean laundry areas.

IC.06.01.03

The organization implements policies and procedures to help prevent and control the development and transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases among patients, residents, and staff.

Patient Vaccination

IC.06.01.03 EP 1

The organization offers recommended vaccinations, including influenza, pneumococcal disease, and COVID-19, to patients or residents, unless the vaccination is medically contraindicated, or the patient or resident has already been immunized.

Note 1: The organization follows national guidelines on when to administer recommended vaccinations to a patient or resident.

Note 2: Before offering vaccination, the organization provides education to patients and residents and their surrogate decision-makers on the benefits and potential side effects of vaccination.

Note 3: The organization gives the patient or resident or their surrogate decision-maker the opportunity to refuse vaccination.

Note 4: Receipt or nonreceipt of vaccination due to medical contraindication or refusal is documented in the patient's or resident's medical record.

Staff Vaccination

IC.06.01.03 EP 2

The organization offers recommended vaccinations, including the COVID-19 vaccination at a minimum, to staff.

Note 1: The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) provides vaccine-specific recommendations and guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>.

Note 2: Before offering vaccination, the organization provides education to staff on the benefits and potential side effects of vaccination.

The Updated Infection Control Standards for Assisted Living Communities (ALC)

Effective January 1, 2025

What Will the New ALC Infection Control Chapter Look Like?

APPLICABLE TO THE ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM Effective January 1, 2026	
Infection Prevention and Control (IC) Chapter	
IC.04.01.01	
The organization maintains and documents 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 organization assigns responsibility for the infection prevention and control program to one or more individuals. (See also HR.01.01.01, EP 1)
New EP 3	The organization's infection prevention and control program has written policies and procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and communicable diseases. The policies and procedures are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice, including the use of standard precautions. Note: Standard precautions include hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, injection and medication safety, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), minimizing potential exposures, and reprocessing of reusable medical equipment or devices. For full details on standard precautions, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html
Ⓢ	Documentation is required
New EP 5	The organization provides job-specific infection control education and training to staff.
Ⓢ	Documentation is required
New EP 9	The organization provides supplies to support infection prevention and control activities. Note: Examples of supplies include alcohol-based hand sanitizers, hand soap, personal protective equipment, and cleaning and disinfection supplies.

IC.06.01.01	
The organization implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.	
Element(s) of Performance for IC.06.01.01	
New EP 1	To prioritize the organization's infection prevention and control activities, the organization identifies risks for infection, contamination, and exposure that pose a risk to residents and staff based on the following: - Population served - 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 Note: Risks may include organisms with a propensity for transmission within health care facilities based on published reports and the occurrence of clusters of residents (for example, COVID-19, influenza, norovirus). (See also EC.02.06.05, EP 2)
Ⓢ	Documentation is required
New EP 2	The organization reviews identified risks at least annually or whenever significant changes in risk occur.
Ⓢ	Documentation is required
New EP 3	The organization implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases, including the use of standard precautions. (See also NPSG.07.01.01, EP 1)
New EP 6	The organization develops and implements necessary action plans to address infection control issues and improve its infection prevention and control program. Note: The organization evaluates and revises its plan as needed.
Ⓢ	Documentation is required
New EP 8	Staff handle, store, process, and transport linens in accordance with local or state regulations.

What Will the New ALC Infection Control Chapter Look Like?

Condensed and Reorganized Standards/Elements of Performance

10 Standards
32 Elements of
Performance



2 Standards
9 Elements of
Performance



Reference Guide: Infection Control Standards		
Effective January 1, 2025, for Assisted Living Community (ALC) Only		
Infection Control Topic	Old IC Standard/EP	New IC Standard/EP
An individual(s) responsible for the infection prevention and control program	N/A	IC.04.01.01, EP 1
Resources for the infection prevention and control program	IC.01.02.01, EPs 1,3	IC.04.01.01, EP 9 See LD.01.03.01 EP 5
Infection risk identification	IC.01.03.01, EP 1	IC.06.01.01, EP 1
Annual review of infection control risks or whenever significant changes in risk occur	N/A	IC.06.01.01, EP 2
Prioritizing infection prevention and control activities based on risk	IC.01.04.01, EP 1	IC.06.01.01, EP 1
Infection prevention and control plan	IC.01.05.01, EPs 1,2	N/A
Requirements for infection control policies and procedures	N/A	IC.04.01.01, EP 3
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
Use of public health and safety data	IC.01.06.01, EP 2	IC.06.01.01 EP 1
Surveillance of infections or infection control processes	IC.01.05.01, EP 2 IC.02.01.01, EP 1	In accordance with law and regulation
Outbreak management	IC.02.01.01, EP 5	In accordance with law and regulation
Response to an increased number of potentially infectious residents	IC.01.06.01, EP 4	See EM requirements
Implementation of infection prevention and control activities, including standard precautions	IC.02.01.01, EPs 1,2,3,	IC.06.01.01, EP 3
Communication of critical information to residents, families, visitors, and staff about emerging infections that could cause, or are causing, an increase in the number of infectious residents.	IC.01.06.01, EP 3	Based on risk assessment
Reporting to local, state, and federal public health authorities	N/A	In accordance with law and regulation IC.04.01.01 EP 3
Job-specific infection control education and training to staff	N/A	IC.04.01.01 EP 8
Action plans to address infection control issues and improve its infection prevention and control program	N/A	IC.06.01.01 EP 6
Handling, storage, processing, and transport of linens in accordance with local or state regulations	N/A	IC.06.01.01 EP 8

Many Requirements Have Been Clarified

In a new Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Assisted Living Communities



Infection Prevention and Control Program Assessment Tool for the Assisted Living Community Program

Required Documents:

- Assessment of infection risks
Note: Performed at least annually, the format is determined by the organization.
- Infection prevention and control policies and procedures
- Documentation of completed job-specific staff education on infection prevention and control
- A corrective action plan(s) (see below)

Infection Prevention and Control Program Leader

Standard/EP: IC.04.01.01 EP 1

- ✓ The organization assigns responsibility for the infection prevention and control program to one or more individuals.
- ✓ The responsible individual(s) oversees implementation of infection prevention and control activities and staff education and training, and maintains program documentation, including policies and procedures.
- ✓ The responsible individual(s) is qualified according to the criteria defined by the organization (See also HR.01.01.01 EP 1)
Note: Qualifications for infection control may be met through education, training/coaching, experience, and/or certification (such as certification from the Certification Board for Infection Control and Epidemiology).
- ✓ The responsible individual(s) follows an established process for communicating with local health or public health authorities on the matters of infection prevention and control, including reporting of communicable diseases and outbreaks as required by law and regulations.

Policies and Procedures

Standard/EP: IC.04.01.01 EP 3

- ✓ The organization has written policies and procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and communicable diseases. The policies and procedures are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice, including the use of standard precautions.
Relevant topics in federal, state, and local law and regulations include but are not limited to the following:
 1. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) standards
 2. Food code/food sanitation and handling regulations
 3. Linen and laundry regulations
 4. Health care worker immunization requirements
 5. Requirements for reporting of communicable diseases and outbreaks
 6. Requirements for handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of infectious wasteNationally recognized guidelines and standards of practice include but are not limited to the following:
 1. CDC Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings (including standard precautions, occupational health, and transmission-based precautions)
 2. CDC guidelines for environmental infection control
 3. CDC or WHO hand hygiene guidelines

Staff Infection Control Training and Education

Standard/EP: IC.04.01.01 EP 8

- ✓ The organization provides job-specific training and education on infection prevention and control, including the following, at a minimum:
 - Standard precautions
 - Education and training required by law and regulations, for example, OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.
 - Practical applications of organization infection prevention and control policies and proceduresNote: Job-specific means that education and training are consistent with or tailored to the performed roles and responsibilities. For example, environmental services staff are trained in the methods and procedures for surface disinfection.
- ✓ Training occurs before individuals are allowed to perform their duties and periodically thereafter, as designated by organization policy. Additional training is provided in response to recognized lapses in adherence and to address newly recognized infection transmission threats (for example, introduction of new procedures).
- ✓ The organization defines and assesses staff competency in infection prevention and control.
Note: Competency must be job specific. For example, food and dietetic services staff demonstrate proper cleaning and sanitation of hands and surfaces.

Risk assessment

Standard/EP: IC.06.01.01 EP 1

- ✓ The organization has a written assessment of its identified risks for infection, contamination, and exposure that pose a risk to residents and staff. Assessment of risk is based on the following:
 - Population served by the organization
 - Care, treatment, and services the organization provides
 - Relevant infection control issues identified by the local, state, or federal public health authorities that could impact the organization

Documentation Requirements

Required Documents:

- Assessment of infection risks
- Infection prevention and control policies and procedures
- Documentation of completed job-specific staff education on infection prevention and control
- A corrective action plan(s)

Key: (D) indicates that documentation is required

Highlights of the Updated ALC Infection Control Standards

Effective January 1, 2025

Structure of the Updated Infection Control Standards

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

Infection Prevention and Control Responsibility

IC.04.01.01 EP 1 The organization assigns responsibility for the infection prevention and control program to one or more individuals. (See also HR.01.01.01, EP 1)

- The responsible individual(s) oversees implementation of infection prevention and control activities and staff education and training, and maintains program documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The responsible individual(s) is qualified according to the criteria defined by the organization (See also HR.01.01.01 EP 1)
 - Note: Qualifications for infection control may be met through education, training/coaching, experience, and/or certification (such as certification from the Certification Board for Infection Control and Epidemiology).
- The responsible individual(s) follows an established process for communicating with local health or public health authorities on the matters of infection prevention and control, including reporting of communicable diseases and outbreaks as required by law and regulations.

IC.04.01.01 EP 3 The organization's infection prevention and control program has written policies and procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and communicable diseases.

- The policies and procedures are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice
- Include the use of standard precautions

Note: Standard precautions include hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, injection and medication safety, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), minimizing potential exposures, and reprocessing of reusable medical equipment or devices. For full details on standard precautions, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html>

Applicable Law and Regulation, Evidence-based Guidelines and Standards of Practice

Relevant topics in federal, state, and local law and regulations include but are not limited to the following:

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) standards
- Food code/food sanitation and handling regulations
- Linen and laundry regulations
- Health care worker immunization requirements
- Requirements for reporting of communicable diseases and outbreaks
- Requirements for handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of infectious waste

Nationally recognized guidelines and standards of practice include but are not limited to the following:

- CDC Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings (including standard precautions, occupational health, and transmission-based precautions)
- CDC guidelines for environmental infection control
- CDC or WHO hand hygiene guidelines

Infection Control Education and Training

IC.04.01.01 EP8

The organization provides job-specific training and education on infection prevention and control, including the following, at a minimum:

- Standard precautions
- Education and training required by law and regulations, for example, OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.
- Practical applications of organization infection prevention and control policies and procedures

Note: Job-specific means that education and training are consistent with or tailored to the performed roles and responsibilities. For example, environmental services staff are trained in the methods and procedures for surface disinfection.

Training occurs before individuals are allowed to perform their duties and periodically thereafter, as designated by organization policy. Additional training is provided in response to recognized lapses in adherence and to address newly recognized infection transmission threats (for example, introduction of new procedures).

The organization defines and assesses staff competency in infection prevention and control.

Note: Competency must be job specific. For example, food and dietetic services staff demonstrate proper cleaning and sanitation of hands and surfaces.

Supplies

IC.04.01.01 EP 9

The organization provides supplies to support infection prevention and control activities.

Note: Examples of supplies include alcohol-based hand sanitizers, hand soap, personal protective equipment, and cleaning and 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 The organization has a written assessment of its identified risks for infection, contamination, and exposure that pose a risk to residents and staff. Assessment of risk is based on the following:

Population served

Care, treatment, services
provided

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

Organisms with a propensity for
transmission within healthcare
facilities

IC.06.01.01 EP 2 The organization reviews identified risks at least annually or whenever significant changes in risk occur.

Other areas where Infection Control risks are addressed include:

- The organization includes risks relevant to construction, renovation, maintenance, demolition, and repair

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. (See also NPSG.07.01.01, EP 1)

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

Corrective Action Plans

IC.06.01.01 EP 6

The organization develops a corrective action plan to address lapses in infection control practices or to mitigate infection control risks identified in the organization.

Such plan is based on monitoring of adherence to policies and procedures and any identified root causes of infection or disease transmission.

The organization evaluates and revises the plan as needed.

Actions to facilitate improvements and disease prevention may include the following:

- Policy, procedure, or practice changes
- Education for residents, caregivers, and staff to prevent infections and transmission of communicable diseases
- Development of process measures that could be used to monitor and address identified issues

Management of Linens

IC.06.01.01 EP 8

Linens are handled, stored, processed, and transported in such a manner as to prevent the spread of contaminants and as required by local or state law and regulations.





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