

# Prepublication Requirements



## Revised Infection Control 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 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)

**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/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html>

Ⓓ Documentation is required

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## **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**

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**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 Enterobacterales [CRE], *Candida auris*). (See also EC.02.05.02, EP 2; EC.02.06.05, EP 2)

Ⓓ Documentation is required

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

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**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)

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**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.

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**New EP 8** Staff handle, store, process, and transport linens so as to prevent the spread of infection.

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### **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**

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**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.

- Ⓓ Documentation is required
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**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/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.

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