

**Infection control committee, team
and nurse**

Infection control program at Health

Function and organization of the infection control program:

- The provision of an effective infection control program (ICP) is a key to the quality and a reflection of the overall standard of care provided by the health care institution.
- Major differences among countries in their health care resources and organization, and medical cultures explain the diversity of approaches to the organization of hospital hygiene and infection control programs.
- The growth in ICP has been paralleled by the establishment and growth of a number of professional and governmental organizations which focus on Nosocomial infection prevention and control.

Infection control Committee (ICC):

- The hospital ICC is charged with the responsibility for the planning, evaluation of evidenced-based practice and implementation, prioritization and resource allocation of all matters relating to infection control.
- The ICC must have a reporting relationship directly to either administration or the medical staff to promote ICP visibility and effectiveness.
- The ICC should meet regularly (monthly) according to local need.
- The membership of the hospital ICC should reflect the spectrum of clinical services and administrative arrangements of the health care facility.

As a minimum, the committee should include:

- Chief executive, or hospital administrator or his/her nominated representative.
- ICD or hospital microbiologist (chairperson).
- Infection Control Nurse (ICN).
- Infectious Diseases Physician (if available)
- Director of nursing or his representative.
- Occupational Health Physician (if available).
- Representative from the major clinical specialities.
- Additionally representatives of any other department (pharmacy, central supply, maintenance, housekeeping...etc) may be invited as necessary.

The ICC has the following tasks:

- To review and approve the annual plan for infection control.
- To review and approve the infection control policies.
- To support the IC team and direct resources to address problems as identified.
- To ensure availability of appropriate supplies.
- To review epidemiological surveillance data and identify area for intervention.
- To assess and promote improved practice at all levels of the health care facility.
- To ensure appropriate training in infection control and safety.
- To review risks associated with new technology and new devices prior to their approval for use.
- To review and provide input into an outbreak investigation
- To communicate and cooperate with other committees with common interests such as antibiotic committee, occupational health committee....etc.

Role of Infection Control Team:

- The role of ICT is:
- **Ensure that an effective ICP has been planned, co-ordinate its implementation, and evaluate the impact of such measures.**
- **It is important to ensure that there is a 24-hour access to the ICT for advice on infection prevention and control which would include both medical and nursing advice.**
- **To develop an annual infection control plan with clearly defined objective.**

Role of Infection Control Team:

- To develop written policies and procedures including regular evaluation and update.
- To supervise and monitor daily practices of patient care designed to prevent infection.
- To ensure availability of appropriate supplies
- To organize an epidemiological surveillance program (particularly in high risk areas for early detection of outbreak).
- To educate all grades of staff in infection control policy, practice and procedures.
- To develop and implement annual training plan for all health care workers.

Role of Infection Control Team:

- To have scientific and technical support role in purchasing and monitoring of equipment and supplies.
- To participate with the pharmacy and antibiotic committee in developing a program for supervising the use of antibiotics.
- To participate in the audit activity.
- To submit monthly reports on activities to IC.

Nursing Responsibilities

- Clinical care staff and other health care workers are the frontline defence for applying daily infection control practices to prevent infections and transmission of organisms to other patients.
- Although training in preventing blood borne pathogen exposures is required annually by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, clinical nurses (registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants) and other health care staff should receive additional infection control training and periodic evaluations of aseptic care as a planned patient safety activity.

Nursing Responsibilities

- Nurses have the unique opportunity to directly reduce health care–associated infections through recognizing and applying evidence-based procedures to prevent HAIs among patients and protecting the health of the staff.
- Clinical care nurses directly prevent infections by performing, monitoring, and assuring compliance with aseptic work practices; providing knowledgeable collaborative oversight on environmental decontamination to prevent transmission of microorganisms from patient to patient; and serve as the primary resource to identify and refer ill visitors or staff.

Infection Control Nurse (ICN)

- **An Infection Control Nurse or Practitioner is a registered nurse with an additional academic education and practical training which enables him or her to act as a specialist advisor in all matters relating to infection control.**
- **A recognized qualification in infection control should be held which will allow recognition of the ICN as a specialist practitioner.**

References

- WHO GUIDELINES FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO MEASLES OUTBREAKS <http://www.who.int>
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