

INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Infection Control Committee and Infection Control Team

Introduction:

Infection control (IC) is a necessary component of safe, high quality patient care and is essential for the well being of the patients and of the staff. The fundamentals of infection control are applicable to all settings where health care is being provided. These fundamentals need to be implemented regardless of resource limitation as they are designed to protect the patient and care provider from exposure to infectious agents.

In order to achieve reduction in infection rates among patients and staff, an infection control program has to be developed with a clear and firm organizational structure. As a first step, the infection control program needs to establish the appropriate organizational structure within each level of the health care system and to have defined roles and responsibilities for key personnel. Each level of infection control program, from the person(s) charged with administrative support to the direct care provider at the patient bedside, should share the overall responsibility of preventing infection.

To develop and implement Infection Control program, experience has shown that a proper structure needs to be developed in accordance with the local needs and resources of the facility.

Proposed Organizational Structure & Terms of Reference

Infection Control Committee (ICC)

The ICC should be made up of key personnel from various health facility departments. It should act as a liaison between departments that are responsible for patient care and for support (nursing, medicine, pharmacy, central store, engineering, CSSD etc).

Committee Members: Committee may be of about 11 members

Chair: Infectious Diseases Specialist/Senior Surgeon/Microbiologist/Physician/Medical Superintendent /Administrator (coordinator)

Members:

- ✦ Medical Superintendent/Administrator (coordinator)
- ✦ Epidemiologist
- ✦ Member from Surgical & Allied Departments
- ✦ Member from Matron's office.
- ✦ Member from Medical & Allied Departments
- ✦ Incharge of O.Ts.
- ✦ Member from Stores/Purchase.
- ✦ Member from Canteen/Food Supplies.
- ✦ Chief of Sanitary Services.
- ✦ Biomedical Engineer/Civil Engineer

Responsibilities:

- ✦ To meet on monthly basis (Coordinated by Administration Representative)
- ✦ To develop Protocol/Guidelines.
- ✦ To monitor activities and programme of ICT.
- ✦ Generate Resources (Human, Financial & Logistic)
- ✦ To approve the annual plan for infection control at the level of the facility.
- ✦ To approve the infection control policies in the facility.
- ✦ To support the ICT and to direct resources to address problems as identified.
- ✦ To ensure availability of appropriate supplies needed for ICT.
- ✦ To encourage communication among the involved disciplines and different departments.
- ✦ To report outbreaks of nosocomial infections to the PIC-unit.

Infection Control Team (ICT)

The Infection Control Team should have the authority to implement an effective infection control program and should have full support from the Medical Superintendent (MS) of the health facility & work under supervision of Infection Control Committee (ICC).

Committee Members: Team may be of 4-5 members.

Chair: Infectious Diseases Specialist/Senior Surgeon/ Microbiologist/Physician.

Members:

- ✦ Infection Control Nurse/Technician

- ✦ Infection Control Doctor/Microbiologist
- ✦ Sanitary Inspector

Responsibilities:

- ✦ Meet at least weekly (daily in case of an outbreak)
- ✦ Implementation of IC- programme
- ✦ Day to day surveillance of infections
- ✦ Organize training programs for staff
- ✦ Ensure availability of personal protective equipments (PPE) eg., gloves, masks, gowns, hand sanitizer etc.,
- ✦ To prepare an annual action plan for Infection Control and to get approval from the ICC.
- ✦ To advise the staff on all aspects of infection control needed to maintain a safe environment for patients and staff.
- ✦ To develop surveillance program for Nosocomial infection.
- ✦ To identify problems in the implementation of infection control activities which need to be solved.
- ✦ To develop an annual training plan for the health care workers.
- ✦ To investigate outbreaks within the health care facility and report it to the ICC.
- ✦ To submit monthly reports on activities to the ICC.

Meetings and minutes:

The team should meet regularly to discuss relevant issues. A standing agenda may include updates on surveillance, clusters of infections or outbreaks, observations of IC practice, sharps injuries reports policy review or revisions, status of educational efforts, and follow-up on problems identified, e.g., supply/equipment issues. Minutes should be prepared for all meetings.