

The Infection Preventionist Roadmap Series

We are pleased to provide you with the third iteration of our "IP Tip Sheets" intended to assist and support the Infection Preventionist (IP) in the long-term care setting. In the first installment of our "IP Tip Sheets" series, we delved into the antibiotic stewardship aspects of the Infection Prevention & Control Program (IPCP), with the Infection Preventionist leading the team in a successful IPCP. In the second installment, we focused on the system of prevention, identification, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections. For this edition, we will highlight the annual activities and reviews performed by the IP.



The IPC program involves several activities that should be completed at least annually. One important item is to compile a full year surveillance summary report for your facility. In addition, a full year Antibiotic Stewardship summary report should be produced. Recommended content for this report includes antibiograms, infections treated with antibiotics that did not meet criteria, physicians that prescribed the most antibiotics, most common antibiotics prescribed, most common infections, etc. To collect this information, use tracking tools to monitor infections and antibiotic use, and utilization of the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for standardized data collection and benchmarks to assess progress (see [Action Items](#) for links).

Another annual exercise is to conduct an infection control assessment to identify gaps and guide improvement activities. The Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) or the Infection Control Worksheet (ICWS) can be used to evaluate IP practices, infrastructure, safety, surveillance, hand hygiene, PPE, AB Stewardship, and environmental cleaning. A facility assessment must address or include a facility-based and community-based risk assessment utilizing an all-hazards approach. Also note that a community-based risk assessment should include review for risk of infections (e.g., multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs)) and communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and influenza. Appropriate resident tuberculosis screening should be performed based on state requirements. A facility assessment should also be conducted (federal regulation (§483.70(e)), associated F-tag F838), which evaluates resident population and identifies resource needs. An overall IPC Risk Assessment for your facility can be determined from the ICAR results plus the facility assessment to assist in determining priorities, focus areas, resources, and potential infection hazards. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) free online training course has more information and an IPC risk Assessment spreadsheet available for download (see [Action Items](#) for tools).

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Review and update your facility's Processes and Procedures at least annually, or more frequently as new guidance and regulations are issued. Check the State Operations Manual periodically, and the Quality Safety and Oversight (QSO) Memos for updates. Policies and procedures should incorporate current standards of practice based on nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines. A reliable source is the CDC website and Infection Control Guidelines library. The World Health Organization and the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) are also good sources for education material. A review of all educational in-services should be conducted at least annually and it is recommended to set a training schedule for the coming year at the same time (see [Action Items](#) for links).

As you can see there are several activities that must occur on an annual basis. Check out the links below for helpful resources to assist in this process.

Action items:

- Surveillance Tracking Tool: <https://hain.org/resource/nursing-home-infections-and-antibiotic-use-tracking-tool/> Access national surveillance system for long-term care for data collection and tracking; National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN): [Long-term Care Facilities \(LTCF\) Component | NHSN | CDC](#)
- CDC Infection Control Assessment for Long-term Care Facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/icar/ltaf.pdf>
- CDC and CMS Infection Control Worksheet (ICWS) self-assessment tool (QSO 20-03-NH Attachment A): [QSO 20-03 Updates and initiatives to ensure safety and quality in nursing \(cms.gov\)](#)
- APIC IC risk assessment tool: <https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/APIC/eb3f0499-9134-44a4-9b14-f1d9f3915c3f/UploadedImages/ICRiskAssessmentTool2007Form.doc>
- APIC IC risk assessment analysis: <https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/APIC/eb3f0499-9134-44a4-9b14-f1d9f3915c3f/UploadedImages/ICRiskAssessmentAnalysis.xls>
- Facility Assessment Tool: http://qioprogram.org/sites/default/files/editors/141/Facility_Assessment_2017_08_18_Final.doc
[X](#)
- CDC Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training (downloadable IPC Risk Assessment spreadsheet) [Infection Prevention Training | LTCF | CDC](#)
- Regularly access the State Operations Manual (SOM) for interpretive guidance on regulations (Appendix PP): [R173SOMA \(cms.gov\)](#)
- Check CMS QSO Memos: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Policy-and-Memos-to-States-and-Regions>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, Infection Control website and Infection Control Guidelines library: [Guidelines Library | Infection Control | CDC](#)
- Scenario-based infection prevention training: [Targeted COVID-19 Training for Nursing Homes](#)
- APIC long-term care resources: [Long-Term Care | infectionpreventionandyou.org](#)
- World Health Organization : [WHO | World Health Organization](#)

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