

Infection Control Measures

Infection Control Measures are policies and procedures that aim to prevent the spread of infectious agents in healthcare settings. They include standard precautions, contact and droplet precautions as well as cleaning, disinfection and laundry management.

Successful infection control systems utilise the hierarchy of controls to minimise transmission of infections so far as reasonably practicable. This includes routine cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces; aseptic technique for use of invasive medical devices; workforce immunisation and screening for vaccine-preventable [BUS FPX 3007 Assessment 3 Building Effective Teams](#).

Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene is the simplest, yet one of the most effective, interventions to reduce transmission of resistant pathogens in health care facilities. The importance of washing hands was first recognized in the mid 19th century by the Hungarian physician Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis and Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

Health care workers' hands are frequently colonized with resistant pathogens such as MRSA, VRE and multidrug-resistant Gram negative bacteria (GNBs). Studies have shown that the carriage of these organisms on the hands of healthcare providers correlates directly with the incidence of health-care associated infections in critically ill patients.

The Society for [MBA FPX 5010 Assessment 1 Training Accounting Tools](#) of America, Infectious Diseases Society of America and Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology published a Practice Recommendation 2022 on Hand Hygiene which strongly emphasizes that health-care personnel should wash their hands immediately before and after patient contact with an antiseptic soap or waterless antiseptic agent such as an alcohol-based hand rub, unless their hands are visibly soiled.

Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment creates a barrier between your hands and germs. It includes gloves, masks, and gowns that you wear when you work in a health care setting. You also use it when [MHA FPX 5006 Assessment 1 Financial Basics](#) work in isolation or with residents who have a special risk of infection. It can include eye protection, earplugs or muffs, face shields, and even whole suits like lab coats and ballistic vests.

All personal protective equipment used in a long-term care (LTC) setting must meet The FDA's regulations and voluntary consensus standards for protection. This includes surgical gloves, [MHA FPX 5006 Assessment 2 Revenue and Reimbursement](#), and gowns. It must be changed regularly and properly disposed of to reduce the chance that germs will transfer from one person to another or from the PPE to other surfaces. PPE is a tool in the hierarchy of control measures and is most effective when combined with hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning. Using standard precautions protects all staff members from infectious diseases.

Environmental Hygiene

Surfaces, equipment and other objects in hospital environments that patients touch can become contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms. These microorganisms can then be transmitted to other patients who come into contact with them. It is therefore important that these surfaces are disinfected regularly to prevent healthcare-associated infections.

Various methods for [BUS FPX3022 Assessment 3 SCM Case Analysis](#) are used, including wipes and spraying disinfectant. However, it is essential that the surface remains wet throughout the cleaning process, and that the amount of disinfectant applied is adequate. Also, it is possible that the cleaning methods used do not always remove all of the contamination on the surface.

New omics technologies may provide more accurate and timely feedback on the effectiveness of surface disinfection, including the ability to monitor the presence of viable pathogens. Further research into this is warranted. Moreover, this research should take into account the potential for latent or delayed adverse effects of chemicals and other hazards. Thus, the development of Environmental Hygiene should be based on global reduction of exposure to hazardous factors rather than requiring demonstration of causal involvement in particular adverse outcomes.

Training

Training is an important part of infection control and is required for all healthcare workers. Each year, approximately 3 million health workers sustain percutaneous exposures resulting in the transmission of blood-borne pathogens (including HIV, hepatitis B and C).

Infections can also be transmitted through contact with saliva, urine and faeces and through non-intact skin or mucus membranes. Healthcare workers are at a high risk of infections as they come into contact with the body fluids of their patients and others in the hospital setting.

A study conducted by Adly et al showed that the training program significantly increased nurses' knowledge, attitude and behaviour regarding infection control measures. Moreover, the results also revealed that a large number of nurses in hospitals do not comply with infection control measures. This is because they either do not recognize the importance of these measures or lack the necessary skills to implement them.