



# Ask an IP

## Learning and Communication Series

Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR)  
Part 1 of 3

September 13, 2023  
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Acute Communicable Disease Control Program  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health





## Disclosures

There is no commercial support for today's call

Neither the speakers nor planners for today's call have disclosed any financial interests related to the content of the meeting

This call is meant for healthcare facilities and is off the record and reporters should log off now



## Housekeeping

- **Microphones** are disabled. For questions, please use the chat.
- **Cameras:** please keep them turned off during the presentation.
- **Recording:** the presentation is being recorded and will be posted on the Ask an IP Website within 1 week following the session.
- We will not review COVID-19 guidelines (including CDPH AFLs) during these sessions.



## LAC DPH Infection Prevention Team

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**Ask an IP Website:** <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/AskAnIPProgram/index.htm>



## Objectives

1. Discuss the goals of an Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) tool
2. Describe the process of conducting an ICAR
3. Establish a goal for completing your own ICAR



## Audience Question

Have you conducted an ICAR at your facility?



## Audience Question

Have you conducted an ICAR at your facility?

If yes, please share one of your findings.

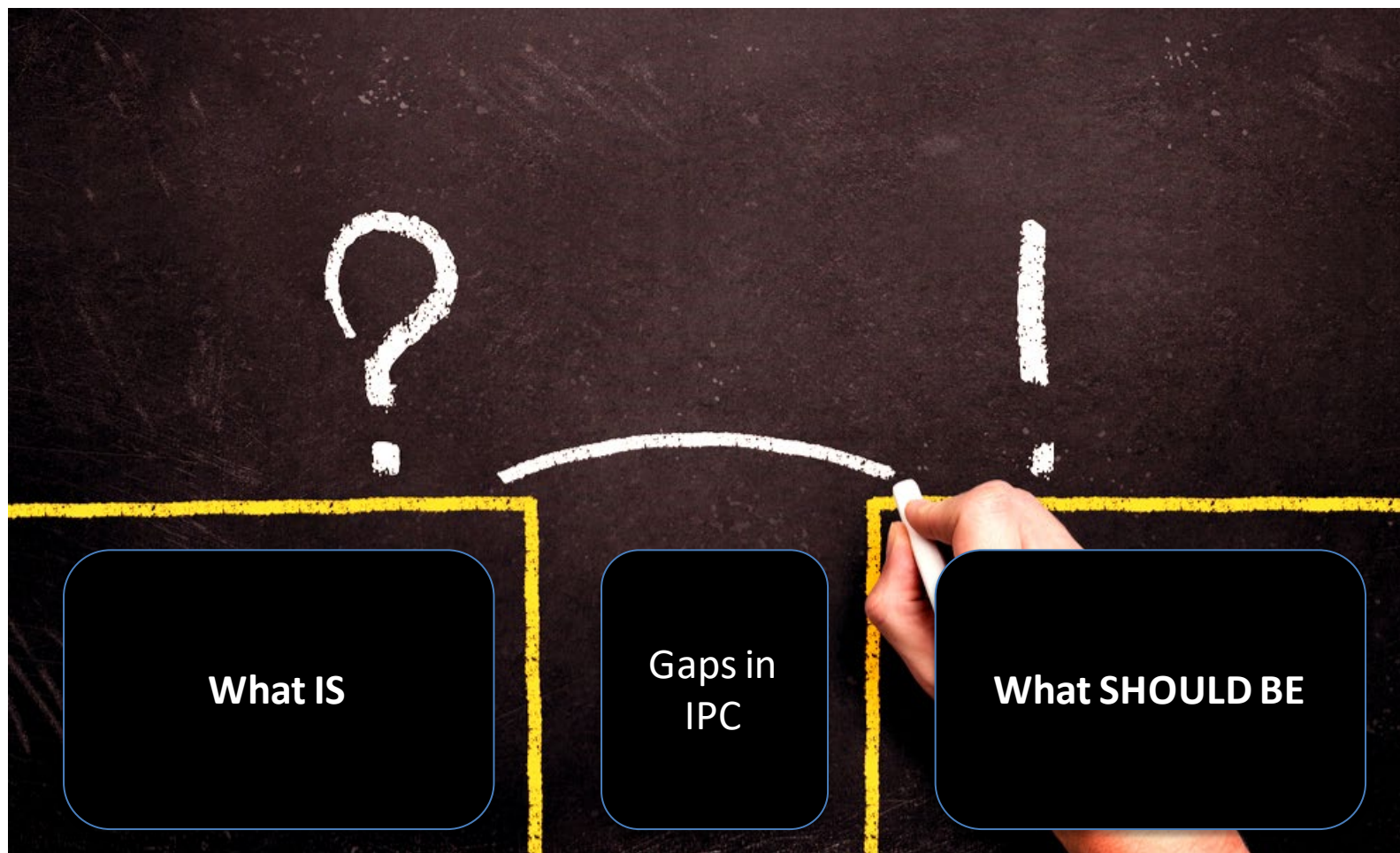
# Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR)

- Tool for assessing your facility's IPC practices
- Tool for guiding your facility's QAPI programs





# ICAR ↔ Gap Analysis



1. <https://readytrainingonline.com/articles/gap-analysis/>

# ICAR Gap Analysis

What IS	Gaps in IPC	What SHOULD BE
<p>Nonporous, high touch surfaces in communal spaces throughout ____ facility are disinfected 4 x per week using any available disinfectant. All staff are responsible for this process, and they sign off when they complete disinfection. The last date with a staff signature is 9/3/23.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Nonporous, high touch surfaces in communal spaces throughout ____ facility should be disinfected once per day using ____ brand disinfectant wipes. The Environmental Services Department is responsible for daily disinfection, and they must observe a 4-minute contact time with ____ brand disinfectant wipes.</p>

## Audience Question

What IS	Gaps in IPC	What SHOULD BE
<p>Nonporous, high touch surfaces in communal spaces throughout ____ facility are disinfected 4 x per week using any available disinfectant. All staff are responsible this process, and they sign off when they complete disinfection. The last date with a staff signature is 9/3/23.</p>	<p><b>What are the gaps?</b></p>	<p>Nonporous, high touch surfaces in communal spaces throughout ____ facility should be disinfected once per day using ____ brand disinfectant wipes. The Environmental Services Department is responsible for daily disinfection, and they must observe a 4-minute contact time with ____ brand disinfectant wipes.</p>

# ICAR Gap Analysis

What IS	Gaps in IPC	What SHOULD BE
<p>Nonporous, high touch surfaces in communal spaces throughout ____ facility are disinfected 4 x per week using any available disinfectant. All staff are responsible this process, and they sign off when they complete disinfection. The last date with a staff signature is 9/3/23.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected frequency of high-touch surface disinfecting is not being met</li> <li>• No delineation of duties; unclear who is responsible for ensuring this task is completed</li> <li>• Unreliable documentation</li> <li>• Using a variety of disinfectants with a variety of contact times</li> </ul>	<p>Nonporous, high touch surfaces in communal spaces throughout ____ facility should be disinfected once per day using ____ brand disinfectant wipes. The Environmental Services Department is responsible for daily disinfection, and they must observe a 4-minute contact time with ____ brand disinfectant wipes.</p>

## Goals of an ICAR

- Assess your facility's IPC practices
- Guide your facility's QAPI programs
- Identify your facility's capacity to detect and address HAIs and outbreaks

✓ Identify and bridge gaps



## The Process of Conducting an ICAR



# ICAR Process



The infection preventionist plays a significant role within each step

## ICAR Process: Identify a Need

- Examples of identifying a need for a gap analysis:
  - Increase in HAIs
  - Facility goal of completing ICARs in a specific frequency (e.g., yearly)
  - New staff, new IP
  - Preparation for a regulatory survey

Note: ICARs can be conducted facility-wide OR you can focus on certain areas of your facility, depending on the reason for the gap analysis



## ICAR Process: Identify a Need

### Facility-wide

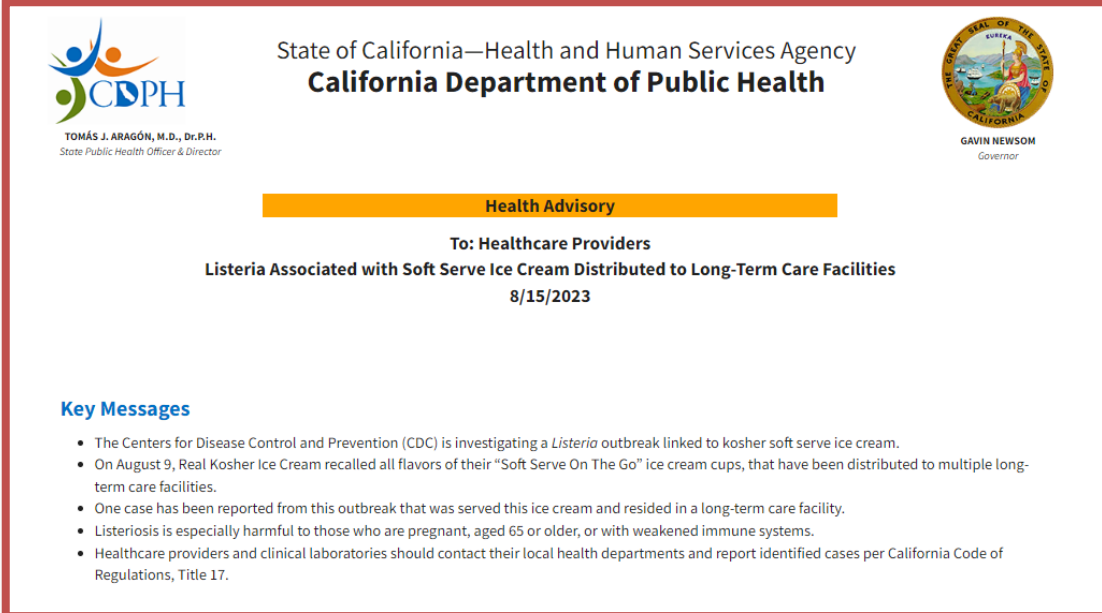
- Comprehensive snapshot of your facility's general IPC practices
- Unknown reasons for poor IPC practices
- Unknown state of IPC practices
- Outbreak or increased transmission seen throughout the facility

### Focused

- Deeper dive into specific units, departments, IPC practices
- Known reasons for poor IPC practices
- Previous interventions did not yield improvement
- Outbreak or increased transmission seen in specific areas within the facility

## ICAR Process: Identify a Need

- Examples of a focused ICAR:
  1. Conduct an ICAR on Unit 3 because we've identified an increase in MDRO transmission
  2. Conduct an ICAR in the Dietary Department due to recent norovirus/foodborne illness outbreak OR as prevention due to recent HANs on a foodborne illness outbreak
    - e.g., *Listeria* outbreak related to soft serve ice cream
  3. Conduct an ICAR on laundry and environmental cleaning & disinfection to follow up after a scabies outbreak
  4. Conduct an ICAR on Unit 1 due to fall outs from the previous regulatory survey



The screenshot shows a health advisory document from the California Department of Public Health. It includes the CDPH logo, the name of the State Public Health Officer & Director, Tomás J. Aragón, M.D., Dr.P.H., and the Governor's seal. The advisory is dated 8/15/2023 and is addressed to healthcare providers. It details a *Listeria* outbreak linked to kosher soft serve ice cream, specifically Real Kasher Ice Cream's "Soft Serve On The Go" cups, which were distributed to multiple long-term care facilities. Key messages include that the CDC is investigating the outbreak, one case has been reported in a long-term care facility, and healthcare providers should report cases to their local health departments.

1. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/CAHAN/Listeria-Associated-with-Soft-Serve-Ice-Cream-distributed-to-Long-term-Care-Facilities.aspx>

## ICAR Process: Schedule

### With the party that will lead the ICAR

If your facility is conducting your own ICAR, the infection preventionist is typically responsible for leading the ICAR.

The IP is accompanied by other team leads (e.g., nursing supervisors, environmental services supervisor, dietary supervisor, maintenance supervisor).

If an external party is conducting the ICAR, the IP is typically the liaison for scheduling the gap analysis between the internal and external teams:

- **LAC DPH**
- Consultant

### With affected departments

You can schedule announced or unannounced ICARs. It can be helpful to schedule the ICAR in advance and make affected departments aware so that everyone's workflows are not negatively affected.

- Especially for facility-wide assessments



## Audience Question

Do you know that LAC DPH offers no-cost, comprehensive ICARs?

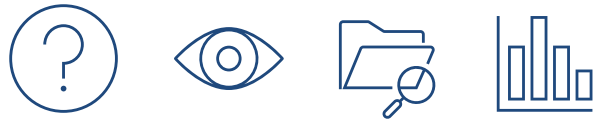
# ICAR Process: Schedule

- Visit our website to learn more:  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ICARProgram/index.htm>
- Express interest in scheduling an ICAR with us:  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SHJZBzjqG0WKvqY47dusgf0FV6Ohxd1GqLpEMjW1UPtUNVdPRDY3VEJZOUiBMkc3RFdQT0s1SVZHWi4u>
- We will discuss more in the next Ask an IP Session

The screenshot shows the website for the SNF ICAR Program. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'Translate' button, an 'A-Z Index' menu (A-Z ALL), and a 'Font Size' selector (AAA). Below this is the County of Los Angeles Public Health logo, a search bar, and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'About', 'FAQ', 'Comment', 'Contact Us', and 'A-Z Index'. The main content area features a large illustration of people and a welcome message: 'Welcome to the SNF ICAR Program home page!'. A sidebar on the left is titled 'SNF ICAR Hub' and lists links for 'SNF: COVID-19 Guidance and Resources', 'TNT Program', 'SNF Webinar Archive', 'LAC DPH Healthcare Outreach Unit: Main Page', and 'LAC ACDC SNF: Main Page'. A 'Content' section on the right lists 'About the SNF ICAR Program', 'Steps to ICAR', 'Benefits of Participation', and 'Facility Expectations'. A notification banner at the top right states: 'Please be sure to refresh your browser to see the latest updates and versions of this webpage. Page updated 8-10-23'.

## ICAR Process: Conduct

- ICAR gap analyses are comprised of:
  - Interview questions
  - Direct observations
  - Data review (optional)



- Divided into ICAR modules:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demographics</li><li>• IPC Program</li><li>• Training, Auditing, Feedback</li><li>• Hand Hygiene</li><li>• ASP</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standard &amp; Transmission-based Precautions</li><li>• Dietary</li><li>• Wound Care</li><li>• Occupational Health</li><li>• And more!</li></ul> |
|--|--|



1. <https://readytrainingonline.com/articles/gap-analysis/>

## ICAR Process: Conduct

- Types of ICAR questions:
  - Close ended: yes or no
  - Open ended: prompt a longer response
  - Interview (verbal)
  - Observation (audit)

Which, if any, of these infectious diseases/pathogens are consistently prioritized for single-occupancy rooms?

*Select all that apply*

- C. difficile infections
- Acute diarrhea of unknown etiology
- Acute respiratory illness of unknown etiology
- Pan-resistant organisms
- VRSA (different from MRSA)
- Any CRE
- Any CRAB
- Any Candida auris
- Any MDRO including KPC-CRE and OXA-23 CRAB
- Any and all infectious diseases

Multiple selection, expansion of options

Is facility-approved hand lotion supplied for use on units?

- Yes
- No

Simple, limited options

**Observation:** Adequate supplies of PPE are stocked at room entry.

- Yes
- No

Answer is based off visual assessment instead of verbal



## Audience Question

Do you prefer close-ended or open-ended questions when you interview staff?





## ICAR Process: Conduct

- Types of ICAR questions:
  - Close ended: yes or no
  - Open ended: prompt a longer response
  - Interview (verbal)
  - Observation (audit)
  
- Materials needed to conduct your ICAR
  - **Trained staff** who are familiar with IPC best practices & direct observation instructions
  - ICAR survey (electronic, paper)
  - Direct observation forms (electronic, paper)
  - Fluorescent marker and UV flashlight (Glo Germ supplies) for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection assessment



## ICAR Process: Disseminate

- Once you complete the entire assessment, the IP should collect and organize the findings and feedback
- This organized information can now guide your facility's QAPI projects
- You can work together with your QAPI team and other department leads to prioritize interventions and agree on timelines
- Disseminate your ICAR findings and feedback:
  - **All staff!**
  - Electronic, paper, verbal
  - Celebrate good IPC practices and challenge staff to work on the poor IPC practices<sup>26</sup>



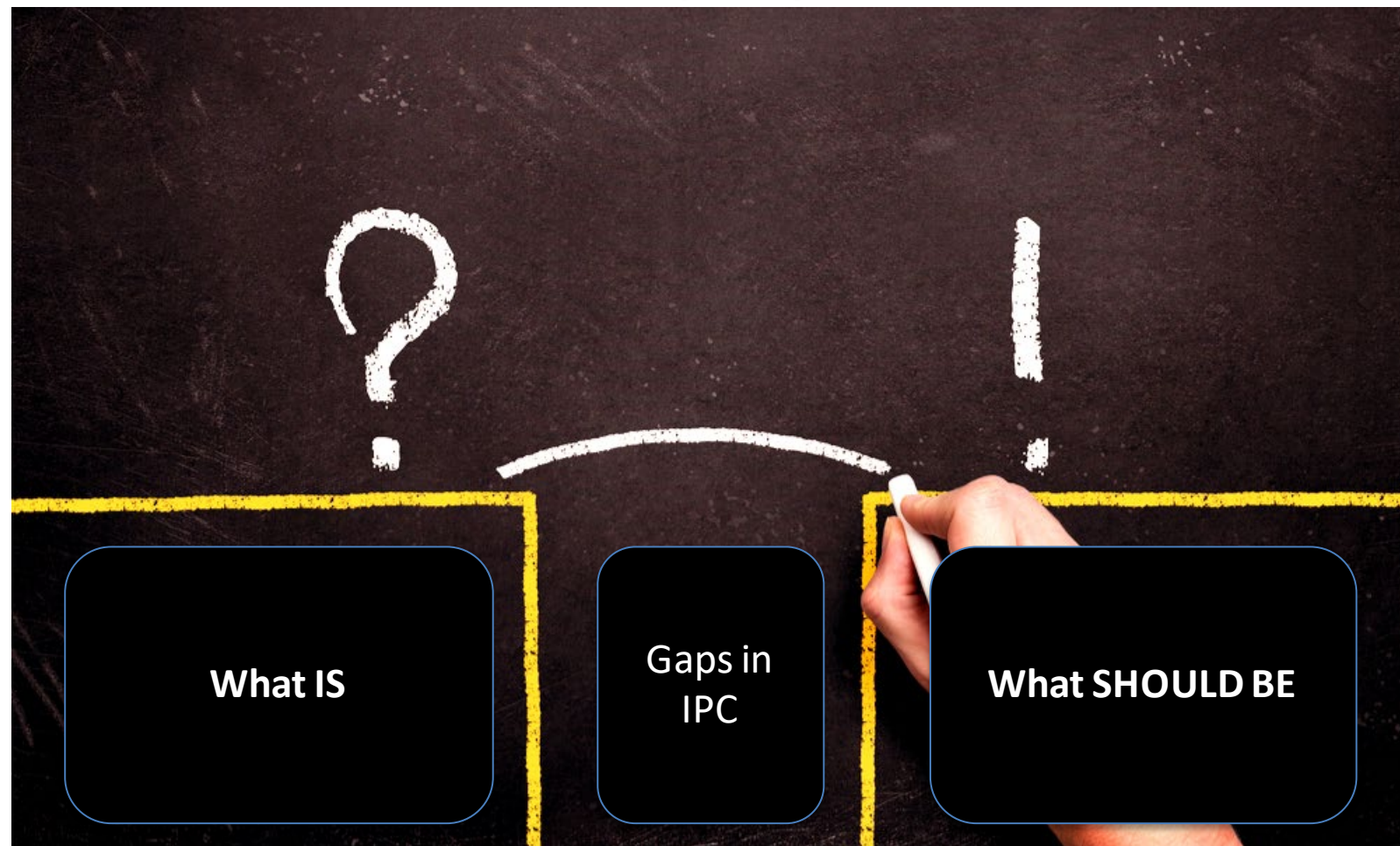
## ICAR Process: **Follow up**

- It can be helpful to regularly meet with teams and assist them with their IPC interventions (based on your findings and feedback)
- As QAPI projects wrap up, complete a focused ICAR (gap analysis)
- **Document** bridged gaps
- Disseminate your improved findings

## Review

- What is an ICAR?
- Identifying a need
- Scheduling the ICAR
- Conducting the ICAR
- Disseminate findings
- Follow up

ICAR ↔ Gap Analysis



Common theme throughout the process: **communication**

1. <https://readytrainingonline.com/articles/gap-analysis/>



## Establish Your Own Goal

We invite you to start the ICAR process

1. **When do you want to complete your ICAR by?**
2. **Who should be involved in the assessments and observations?**
3. **Is there a focus?**
4. **If yes, what is your focus?**
5. How will you disseminate findings and feedback?
6. By when will you follow up on intervention implementation?
7. Who will you report intervention progress to?

Before our next Ask an IP session, consider the first 4 questions



## Next ICAR Session:

- Walkthrough of the LAC DPH ICAR
- Expansion on the “conducting an ICAR” step
- Providing on-the-spot feedback
- Interpreting assessment answers



## References

- <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html>
- <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ICARProgram/index.htm>
- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/MonitoringAdherenceToHCPracticesThatPreventInfection.aspx>

## Resources

- LAC DPH
  - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm>
  - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ICARProgram/index.htm>
  - <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SHJZBzjqG0WKvqY47dusgf0FV6Ohxd1GqLpEMjW1UPtUNVdPRDY3VEJZOUIBMkc3RFdQT0s1SVZHWi4u>
- CDPH
  - <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/MonitoringAdherenceToHCPracticesThatPreventInfection.aspx>
- CDC
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html>





## Questions?

*Disclaimer: Recording has now stopped. The Q&A will not be recorded.*

Thank you!





## Questions

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Our next Ask an IP Session will be on  
**Wednesday October 11, 2023**

