The Role of the Infection Preventionist

Infection Prevention for Novice & Proficient Preventionist
November 6-7, 2018
Objectives

At the end of the session the participants will be able to:

• Describe the infection prevention & control role in the acute care setting.
• Discuss relationship building as an IP
• Discuss key resources needed for Infection Prevention
Unique Role of the IP

“There are two pieces that are unique to what IPs and healthcare epidemiologists bring to the table: Data --- knowing what is happening in your institution --- and the knowledge of what needs to be done to prevent infections. Those are the reasons people will invite you when discussing problems related to healthcare safety --- because its something the others don’t know. It’s what gives us the power.”

Denise Cardo, MD, Director
CDC’s Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion
What is the Role of the IP?

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Often times, when we need the cooperation and clear direction of those around us...

Instead of coordinated efforts...

we get...
We presume that people want to protect their patients, but they need clear direction, consultation, and support.
IPs need tools for serving in many roles and to accomplish prevention objectives.
Available Education

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)

June 12-14, 2019 – Philadelphia, PA

Society of Healthcare Epidemiology (SHEA)

ID Week  Spring Conference  Podcast Series

Infectious Disease Association of California (IDAC)

Spring 2019
Developmental Path of the IP

Novice
0-4 years experience
• Passing the CIBIC Exam

Proficient
4-9 years Experience

Advanced
10+ years experience

https://apic.org/Professional-Practice/roadmap
• Surveillance
• Epidemiology & Statistics
• Infectious Diseases
• Microbiology
• Disinfection/Sterilization
• Employee Health
• Principles of Adult Learning
• Outbreak investigations/communicable disease reporting
• Product Evaluation
• Policies & procedures

• More care is given in more settings across continuum
• Quality Improvement/prevention of other adverse events
• Waste Management
• Construction
• Bioterrorism Planning
• Pandemic Planning
• Technology – both @ bedside and informatics
• Mandatory reporting
• Other legislative issues

Competency Model used with permission of APIC, Inc.
Professional Standards for IPs

- Qualifications for Infection Control Professional/IP
  - Baccalaureate preferred (nursing, microbiology, epidemiology)
  - Basic training – IP fundamentals course
  - Knowledge, experience, willingness to work hard, listen, and question
- Online & Blogs
Professional Standards for IPs

• Professional Accountability
  • Acquire and maintain knowledge and skills
    • Attend educational conferences
    • Join professional organizations
      • APIC
      • SHEA
      • IDAC
    • Participate in State and local public health events
IP as Liaison

- **Definition:** A person who acts as a link to form close working relationships with other people or groups
- **IPs serve as link to**
  - ✓ Local public health
    - The connection to local services, resources
  - ✓ CDC-NHSN
    - For prevention guidelines and surveillance
  - ✓ Regulators
    - For requirements specific to infection prevention
  - ✓ Patients, visitors, staff, and administration
- **IPs serve as an advocate for patient safety**
IP as Customer Service

Who are infection prevention customers?
- Patients
- Staff
- Physicians
- Visitors
- Community
- Public Health
- Anyone who calls for your consultation services!
IP as Evaluator

- Annual Risk Assessment
- Infection Prevention Plan
- Unit rounding
  - Nursing units, OR, GI Lab, Radiology, ED, Clinics
- Perform surveillance
- Investigate suspected outbreaks
- Educate based on prevention needs/problems
IP as HAI Prevention Expert

- Use epidemiology and microbiology skills
- Analyze, interpret, and feedback surveillance data
- Frequent review of HAI surveillance findings with healthcare providers and leadership:
  - Identifies areas for prevention focus
  - Spurs new prevention efforts
  - Measures progress and sustainability of prevention efforts over time
• Frequent review of HAI surveillance findings with healthcare providers and leadership:
  • Provides encouragement to continue efforts when prevention success occurs
  • Motivates others to look for new ways (processes, practices) to attain and sustain prevention
IP as Educator

Teach others: staff, visitors, and patients
- Evidence-based infection prevention practices
- Infection risk, prevention and control methods
  - Annual Bloodborne Pathogens and Aerosolized Transmissible Diseases (ATD) classes
  - Updates on Pandemics
    - Influenza, Pertussis, Measles
  - New Employee Orientation
  - Volunteers, Construction Workers, Students
- Community Classes
IP as Consultant

- Construction
- Pet Therapy
- Departmental, i.e., Dietary, EVS, Lab
- Family and visitor issues
- Emergency Management
  - Pandemics
  - Floods & Fires
IPs have influence:

• our job is to learn how best to use it to keep patients, staff and visitors safe

Influence:

• defined as the capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force on or produce effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., of others
IPs are role models and leaders, whether or not they perceive themselves as such.

- Staff watch your behaviors
- You make decisions related to ethics and regulations
- You are responsible for IP policies and procedures
- IPs should identify needs/desire for mentorship
- Staff nurses interested in IP
- Students needing a preceptor
- Begin an IP Liaison team
IP as Collaborator

- It really is ALL about relationships – with your EVS Director, OR Supervisor, Chief Engineer, Administration, Materials Management, Lab Director, marketing staff
  - What do you learn from their expertise?
  - Where is teamwork an integral part of finding the solution to the issue at hand?
  - Respect and acknowledgment are a two-way street

- The list is endless...IPs collaborate during disasters, outbreaks, community projects – get to know people now!
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  ✓ CDC-NHSN
    For prevention guidelines and surveillance
  ✓ Regulators
    For requirements specific to infection prevention
  ✓ Patients, visitors, staff, and administration

• IPs serve as an advocate for patient/elder/employee safety
Who are infection prevention customers?

- Patients
- Family Members
- Staff
- Physicians
- Visitors
- Community
- Public Health
- Anyone who calls for your consultation services!
References

- https://learningce.shea-online.org/
- http://www.apic.org
- https://apic.org/Professional-Practice/roadmap
- http://www.idac.org/upcoming.php
Questions?