

**PCI.05.01** The hospital reduces the risk of infections associated with exposure to blood, body fluids, and other potentially infectious materials.

### Food Services

**PCI.06.00** The hospital reduces the risk of infections associated with the operations of food and dietetics services.

### Transmission of Infections

**PCI.07.00** The hospital protects patients, visitors, and staff from transmission of infections and communicable diseases.

**PCI.07.01** The hospital provides resources and equipment to protect staff, health care practitioners, patients, and visitors from biological, physical, and chemical hazards, and these are readily available for use.

**PCI.07.02** The hospital implements processes to support preparedness for epidemiologically significant infectious diseases or special pathogens.

### Quality Improvement and Program Education

**PCI.08.00** The infection prevention and control process is integrated with the hospital's overall program for quality and patient safety, using data and measures that are epidemiologically important to the hospital.

**PCI.08.01** The hospital provides education on infection prevention and control practices to staff, health care practitioners, patients, families, and others when indicated by their role in the hospital.

## Standards, Intents, and Measurable Elements

### *Responsibilities*

#### Standard PCI.01.00

A qualified individual(s) guides the implementation of the hospital's infection prevention and control program and oversees the activities needed to carry out the program throughout the hospital.

#### Intent of PCI.01.00

This standard is about qualifications and oversight of the infection prevention and control program. The effectiveness of a hospital infection prevention and control program in identifying and reducing the risks of acquiring and transmitting infections between patients, staff, health care practitioners, contract workers, volunteers, students, and visitors is dependent on competent and effective leadership. The structure and scope of the infection prevention and control program is in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, national or health care industry standards, and evidence-based guidelines, and is based on the hospital's patient population, scope and complexity of services, geographic location, patient volume, level of risks, and number of staff and health care practitioners. The governing entity approves the program, and leaders provide the resources to implement the program. Capable guidance and oversight to carry out the program is necessary to make infection prevention and control a part of how the hospital meets its mission and strategic priorities.

One or more qualified individuals must oversee the operation of the program. This takes knowledge and experience in the many facets of the role, including but not limited to knowledge of the following:

- Disease transmission, including isolation measures for infectious patients or patients who are immunocompromised

- Knowledge of high-risk processes, such as Central Sterile Supply Department activities, sterile medication compounding, and hemodialysis
- Ability to implement evidence-based guidelines
- Ability to conduct data collection and analysis, report writing, and data presentation
- Ability to communicate effectively

The individual(s) leading the infection prevention and control program has experience in both infection prevention and control and leadership. The qualifications required for this role will depend on the program's activities. The individual's qualifications may be met through education, training, experience, certification or licensure, and/or demonstrated leadership ability.

The individual(s) with oversight for the infection prevention and control program also selects infection prevention and control staff with qualifications and capabilities needed for the program as defined by the hospital. Some of the key infection prevention and control program individuals, such as physician champions or nurse infection prevention project team leaders, may be located within a department/service in the hospital and need to be supported by the infection prevention and control program. The infection prevention and control program staff also understand how to take the hospitalwide priorities and the department/service-level priorities and turn them into a coordinated overall program. The program staff coordinate and organize activities throughout the hospital and provide support with those activities related to hospital priorities.

The qualified individual(s) overseeing the infection prevention and control program is responsible for setting priorities and ensuring progress toward meeting those priorities. This individual(s) identifies high-risk areas for infection prevention and control and provides oversight or designates an appointee to provide oversight of these areas. Staff throughout the hospital support the infection prevention and control program. The program is coordinated with the hospital's quality and patient safety program, and the facility management and safety program. The individual(s) is accountable for coordination with hospital leaders regarding priorities, resources, and continuous improvement related to the infection prevention and control program.

Data are reported to local, national, regional, and/or global public health agencies as required.

The hospital also takes actions to respond to reports issued by public health agencies, as applicable to the hospital and its patient population.

### Measurable Elements of PCI.01.00

1. ① One or more qualified individuals oversee the infection prevention and control program and ensure that the program complies with local and national laws and regulations and applicable infection control guidelines. (*See also* GLD.06.00, ME 1)
2. Qualifications of the overseeing individual(s) and the qualifications of staff for the infection prevention and control program are determined by hospital leaders, based on the hospital's patient population, scope and complexity of services, geographic location, patient volume, level of risks, and number of staff and health care practitioners.
3. This individual(s) coordinates with hospital leaders regarding priorities, resources, and quality improvement opportunities related to the infection prevention and control program.
4. ② The hospital reports infection prevention and control program results to public health agencies as required.
5. The hospital takes appropriate action on reports from relevant public health agencies.

### Standard PCI.01.01

The hospital coordinates infection prevention and control activities across all departments and services.