

control professionals. Others may be included as determined by the hospital's size and complexity of services (for example, clinical epidemiologist, central sterilization manager, microbiologist, pharmacist, housekeeping services, environmental or facilities services, operating theatre supervisor). Responsibilities include, for example, setting criteria to define healthcare-associated infections, establishing data collection (surveillance) methods, designing strategies to address infection prevention and control risks, and reporting processes. Infection Control committee formation order and Term of References should reflect its membership and functions.

IPC.5 The hospital designs and implements a coordinated program to reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in patients, visitors, and healthcare workers.

IPC.5.1 There is a program to reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections which involves patients, families, staff, volunteers, trainees and visitors.

IPC.5.2 The program applies to all areas of the hospital.

IPC.5.3 The program is guided by an annual infection prevention and control plan.

IPC.5.4 The program addresses the unique situations of the hospital and its community such as patient populations, complexity of care provided, climate, and location.

IPC.5.5 The infection prevention and control program is based on:

IPC.5.5.1 Risk assessment.

IPC.5.5.2 Current scientific knowledge.

IPC.5.5.3 Referenced practice guidelines.

IPC.5.5.4 Applicable laws and regulations.

Standard Intent:

For an infection prevention and control program to be effective, it must be comprehensive, encompassing both patient care and employee health. The program is guided by an annual plan that identifies and addresses the infection issues that are epidemiologically important to the hospital. The program and plan are appropriate to the hospital's size, services provided, and patients' volume. The program should be based on periodic assessment of risk and setting of risk-reduction goals that guide the program. In addition, updated scientific information of national and international references is required to understand and to implement effective infection and control activities. Practice guidelines provide information on preventive practices and infections associated with clinical and support services. Applicable laws and regulations define elements of the basic program, the response to infectious disease outbreaks, and any reporting requirements.