

- 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. ⑩ 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. ⑩ 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.

Intent of PCI.01.01

This standard is about integration of the infection prevention and control program with all hospital departments and services, and with the quality and patient safety program. Infection prevention and control activities must be coordinated throughout the hospital and include all services and departments to effectively address the infection risks present throughout the hospital. Infection prevention and control activities impact all areas and functions of the hospital and involve individuals across all departments and services. There must be a formal mechanism to coordinate the program's activities throughout the hospital that includes communicating with all parts of the hospital. The function and actions of this coordination mechanism must be documented. The hospital uses this information to review the effectiveness of coordinated activities and to monitor the continuous improvement of prevention and control of infections.

Hospital leaders must be involved in the coordination mechanism and accountable for the program's effectiveness. Physicians, nurses, and other staff are represented and engaged in the activities with infection prevention and control professionals. Other staff should be included as determined by the hospital's size and complexity of services and may include the following:

- Epidemiologist
- Infectious disease physician or another clinical disease specialist
- Statistician
- Central sterilization manager
- Microbiologist
- Housekeeping services
- Facilities services
- Information technology specialist
- Pharmacist
- Patients and families

The hospital determines the most effective coordination mechanism for its needs. Examples of coordination mechanisms include but are not limited to work groups, a coordinating committee, or a task force.

Responsibilities of this designated coordination mechanism include the following:

- Establishing policies and procedures for the program
- Setting criteria to define health care-associated infections
- Establishing data collection (surveillance) methods
- Designing strategies to address infection prevention and control risks
- Reporting processes
- Communicating with all parts of the hospital
- Coordinating responses to infection outbreaks

Measurable Elements of PCI.01.01

1. There is a formal interdisciplinary coordination mechanism such as a committee for the infection prevention and control program that involves infection prevention and control professionals.
2. All departments and services of the hospital are included in the infection prevention and control program. (*See also* FMS.03.00, ME 1)
3. The function and activities of the coordination mechanism are documented.
4. ⑩ The hospital defines time intervals for committee meetings and content, based on laws and regulations, and requirements of infection control guidelines and hospital policy.
5. The infection prevention and control program supports staff throughout the hospital for infection prevention and control activities.

Standard PCI.01.02

Hospital leaders provide resources to support the infection prevention and control program.