



Module 4: Management of IPC Programs

Session 3: Health Facility IPC Audit



IPC Audit

- Health care workers' compliance with infection control practices and principles is vital in preventing the spread of disease.
- One tool to assess infection control practice in clinical areas is the infection control audit;
- however, many institutions do not approach this in a systematic fashion



Definition and purpose of Health Facility IPC Audit

- Audit means checking actual practice against a standard;
- It should permit reporting of noncompliance or issues of concern by either healthcare workers (HCW) or the Infection Control Team (ICT).
- Providing the results of the audit to staff enables them to identify where improvement is needed.
- An audit is a quality improvement process that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes



Learning Objectives

At the completion of this session participants should be able to:

- Importance of audit in IPC
- Audit Methodology
- Identify key IPC gaps
- Audit Planning
- Develop a work plan to address the identified gaps
- Audit reporting



Assessment methodology

- It is very important to select a few areas to audit, preferably those that are most important to the organization.
- These may include high-risk areas highlighted through surveillance results or the occurrence of outbreaks.
- An effective audit should include:
 - a description of the physical layout;
 - review of traffic flow, protocols and policies, supplies and equipment; and
 - observation of appropriate IPC practice.



Rapid Cycle Audit Plan

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Environment								
Hand hygiene								
Indwelling lines								
Urinary catheters								

- ✓ The audit should take place over a defined time.
- ✓ A rapid audit cycle plan can be completed in a few days and the results provided very quickly.
- ✓ In addition to the rapid cycle plan, an overall annual plan may be useful.
- ✓ Link personnel and ward staff may assist with the process.



Examples of audits



Fostering Regional Cooperation for Better Health



Reporting of audits may be in the form of:

Weekly report:

- Providing rapid feedback on incidental issues while they are still fresh (e.g., during outbreaks or after occupational sharp injuries).

Monthly reports:

- A monthly report should include sections about surveillance, audit results, education, training, and consultations

Quarterly reports:

- These are formal reports including recommendations and management of issues.

Annual report:

- A summary of audits carried out during the year and the resulting improvement or changes during the rapid and annual audit plans, illustrated as appropriate with graphs.



Example of an Annual Audit Plan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MRSA admission screening												
Hand hygiene												
Antimicrobial policy												
Disposal of sharps												
Disinfection policy												
Central processing policy												
Aseptic techniques in operating room												
Surveillance												



Summary

Health care requires an increased emphasis on the use of audits to measure the implementation of policies and procedures relating to IPC practices.

A standardized approach to the audit allows benchmarking of practices across the institution and enhances standards of care

The data from audits can be used to direct the IPC program to target more successful interventions. Audit reporting includes recommendations and guidelines to create a safer environment and to minimize the risk of healthcare-associated infections.



MURAKOZE

Fostering Regional Cooperation for Better Health