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Infection Prevention and Control in LTC Facilities: Quality Monitoring Program Activities and Current Regulations

Sheri Mead RN, CDP, CADDCT
HHS Quality Monitoring Program

Objectives



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- Describe the functions of the HHS Quality Monitoring Program
- Describe the QMP Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) focus area and available resources
 - ✓ Components of an effective IPC program
 - ✓ Techniques and resources for conducting self-evaluation of a facility's IPC program
 - ✓ Role of the Infection Preventionist
- Describe the state and federal regulations related to IPC

QMP Overview

- Statutory basis
- Primary purpose and function
- Units within QMP



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QMP – Statutory Basis

- Established by Senate Bill 1839, 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001
(TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE - CHAPTER 255. QUALITY ASSURANCE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES)
- Not a regulatory function, and staff do not cite deficient practices
- Primary Purpose: To detect, through an Early Warning System, conditions in facilities that could be detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of facility residents and work with those facilities to facilitate improvements



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QMP – Early Warning System (EWS)

- Statistical model
- Data from MDS/quality measures, regulatory surveys and complaint investigations
- Additional data points:
 - ✓ PASRR referrals from within HHSC or Local Authorities
 - ✓ Referrals from DSHS related to outbreaks or MDRO cases
- Scoring criteria reviewed annually



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QMP – Units & Functions

- Quality Monitoring
- Quality Service Review
- Quality Reporting Unit
- Program Development and Innovation



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Quality Monitoring Visits

- Introductory Visit
- Initial QM Visit
- 45-Day Follow-Up Visit
- Routine QM Visit
- In-service Education Visit



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Rapid Response Team Visits

- At a minimum, a 6 month process
- Starts with an initial, multi-disciplinary visit
- Follow-up visits by individual QMs or the team
- Re-evaluation at the end of the 6 months to determine progress made



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Program Development and Innovation

- CMP applications and project management
- Quality in Long-Term Care Conference (formerly the Geriatric Symposium)
- Curriculum development for conferences
- Nursing Facility Quality Review (NFQR)
- Center for Excellence in Aging Services and Long-Term Care
- Focus area development and revision



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QMP – Focus Areas

Why a particular topic?

- Frequently cited deficiencies
- NFQR Data
- New CMS Requirements

IPC

- Outbreaks of infectious illnesses



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QMP – Focus Areas

Evidence-Based Best Practices

- Literature review, clinical practice guidelines
- Valid and reliable resources
 - ✓ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - ✓ World Health Organization (WHO)
 - ✓ Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
 - ✓ Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)
 - ✓ Department of State Health Services (DSHS)



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QMP - Focus Areas

Infection Prevention and Control

- Facility based review
- Multiple components and sections
- Evaluate areas/issues that are most important
- Technical assistance based on the findings of the systems evaluation



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IPC Focus Area

Monitoring Visit Worksheet – Infection Prevention and Control Program

Facility#: _____ Date: _____ Quality Monitor: _____

Facility System Review – Infection Prevention and Control Program	Y	N
Administrative and Personnel		
1. Has the facility designated an individual to be responsible for the infection prevention and control program (IPCP)?		
2. If yes, is coordinating the IPCP this person's full-time role? If not the IP's full-time role, how many hours per week are spent on infection prevention and control activities? _____		
3. What is the IP's level of professional licensure/certification? • LVN • RN • Other _____		
4. Has the facility's IP received specific training in Infection Prevention and Control? • State or local training courses sponsored by a recognized professional society (e.g. APIC, SHEA, TSICP, etc.)? • Corporate/Employer sponsored training course?		
5. Is the designated IP certified in infection prevention and control (e.g. CIC)?		
6. Has the facility developed written policies and procedures that guide infection prevention activities and control activities?		
7. Are the facility's policies and procedures developed using evidence-based guidelines, regulations, and standards?		
8. Are the facility's policies and procedures reviewed at least annually and updated as needed?		
9. Has the facility developed a written emergency preparedness plan that includes infection prevention and control processes?		
Surveillance Programs and Disease Reporting	Y	N
10. Does the facility have a process in place to identify potentially infectious residents at the time of admission?		
11. Does the facility have a system in place for notifying the IP when an antibiotic-resistant organism or <i>C. difficile</i> is identified by the laboratory?		



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IPC Focus Area

Administrative and Personnel

- Infection preventionist
- Policies and procedures
- Emergency preparedness



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IPC Focus Area

Surveillance Programs and Disease Reporting

- Process to identify potentially infectious residents
- Process to notify the infection preventionist
- Written surveillance plan
- Surveillance definitions used
- Review of surveillance and infection data
- Written plan for outbreak response
- Notifiable conditions



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IPC Focus Area

Hand Hygiene

- Policies and procedures
 - ✓ When to use alcohol based hand rub vs. soap and water
 - ✓ Consistent with evidence-based guidelines
- Ongoing training and competency evaluations of staff
- Monitoring adherence to hand hygiene policies and procedures
- Adequate supplies are available in all areas of the facility



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IPC Focus Area

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Policies and procedures
 - ✓ Standard and transmission based precautions
- Job specific training and competency evaluations on proper use of PPE
- Monitoring and documenting adherence to the use of PPE
- Supplies necessary to adhere to policies



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IPC Focus Area

Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette

- Signage in facility
- Hand hygiene supplies near entrances
- Face masks available
- Education of family and other visitors
- Education of all staff members



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IPC Focus Area

Antibiotic Stewardship

- Leadership support
- Access to professionals with antibiotic prescribing expertise
- Written policies
- Monitoring cultures – notifying prescriber if organism not susceptible to prescribed antibiotic
- Antibiotic use report (6 months)
- Antibiogram
- Feedback to prescribers
- Training for nursing staff, prescribers



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IPC Focus Area

Safe Injection Practices/Point of Care Testing

- Injection safety policy and procedure
- Training and competency evaluations of staff
- Procedures for cleaning point of care equipment (blood glucose monitors)
- Auditing adherence to policies and procedures
- Necessary supplies are available



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IPC Focus Area

Employee Health and Immunization Practices

- Policies and procedures
- Staff training – prompt reporting of symptoms
- Baseline TB screening
- Training and competency of the person conducting TB screening
- Offer vaccines – Hep B, Influenza
- Centralized system for tracking immunizations
- Documentation of staff immunization status – all recommended vaccines



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IPC Focus Area

Employee Health and Immunization Practices

- Exposure control plan
- Staff training and competency evaluation – managing bloodborne pathogen exposure



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IPC Focus Area

Resident Health and Immunization Practices

- Baseline TB screening
- Pneumococcal vaccination status
 - ✓ PPSV 23
 - ✓ Prevnar 13
- Influenza immunizations
- Individual immunization record
- Centralized tracking system



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IPC Focus Area

Environmental Services

- Cleaning and disinfection processes
- Routine and terminal cleaning
- High touch surfaces
- Equipment shared between residents
- Re-usable medical devices
- Staff training and competency evaluations – job specific
- Monitoring quality of cleaning and disinfection procedures
- Necessary supplies available



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IPC Focus Area

Laundry

- Workflow to prevent cross-contamination
- Appropriate PPE available to staff
 - ✓ Thick gloves to prevent accidental sharps injuries
- Sharps container available in the laundry area
- Routine cleaning and disinfection of carts, shelves and folding tables



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IPC Focus Area

Nutrition and Dietary Services

- Cleaning of hydration and snack carts
- Temperature sensitive items held at appropriate temperature
- Ice scoops properly stored
- Food/fluids on med carts properly labeled and at appropriate temperature
- Supplements and enteral nutrition formulas properly stored
 - ✓ Labeled and dated when opened or hung



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IPC Focus Area

Nutrition and Dietary Services

- Refrigerators and freezers
 - ✓ Food stored correctly
 - ✓ Clean, free of spills, appropriate temperature
 - ✓ Dry storage area organized and clean
- Hazardous foods – eggs, meat
- Cleaning and sanitizing contact surfaces
- Staff
 - ✓ Hand hygiene, fingernails, jewelry
 - ✓ Gloves, hair restraints
 - ✓ Free of jewelry
 - ✓ No eating, drinking, chewing gum, tobacco use



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IPC - Self-Evaluation

CDC Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool (ICAR)

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/icar/lctcf.pdf>

SPICE Risk Assessment for LTC Template

<https://spice.unc.edu/resources/template-risk-assessment-for-ltc/>



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Infection Preventionist

Basic knowledge

- Resident care practices
- Infectious diseases, epidemiology
- Surveillance, data collection
- Current immunization guidelines
- Disinfection and sterilization processes
- Adult education, communication method

Specialized education

- Basic infection control
- Continuing education



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Infection Preventionist

Certification

- Not required, but does demonstrate expertise
- Certification in Infection Control (CIC)

Additional options for training and certification

- AHCA IP specialized training
- NADONA
- CMS/CDC online training for IP



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IPC Regulations

Texas Administrative Code

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=40&pt=1&ch=19&sch=Q&rl=Y](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=40&pt=1&ch=19&sch=Q&rl=Y)

State Operations Manual, Appendix PP

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/GuidanceforLawsAndRegulations/Downloads/Appendix-PP-State-Operations-Manual.pdf>



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Texas Administrative Code

Title 40, Part 1, Chapter 19, Subchapter Q

- §19.1601 Infection Control
 - ✓ Infection control program
 - ✓ Isolation procedures
 - ✓ Hand hygiene
 - ✓ Communicable diseases and reporting
 - ✓ TB Screening
 - ✓ Immunizations
 - ✓ Linens
 - ✓ QAA Committee oversight
- §19.1602 Universal Precautions



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Appendix PP

F880 Infection Control

- System to prevent, identify, report, investigate, and control infections/communicable diseases
 - ✓ Based on the facility assessment (F838)
- Written standards, policies and procedures
- Surveillance program
- Standard and transmission based precautions
- Incidents identified and actions taken
- Linen handling
- Annual review



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F881 Antibiotic Stewardship

- Antibiotic use protocols
- System to monitor antibiotic use

F882 Infection Preventionist (Phase 3)

- Responsible for the facility's IPC program
- Nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology, related field
- Qualified by education, training, experience, certification
- At least part-time in the facility
- Completed specialized training in IPC
- Participate on QAA Committee



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F883 Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunizations

- Education before administering – benefits and risks
- Offer to all residents unless medically contraindicated, or already given
- Opportunity to refuse
- Documentation in clinical record



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F945 Infection Control Training (Phase 3)

- Written standards, policies and procedures for the IPC program



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Resources

- Risk Assessment, Plan, Policies and Procedures
- Infection Preventionist training
- Antibiotic/antimicrobial Stewardship
- Notifiable conditions
- Surveillance
- Hand Hygiene
- PPE



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Resources

Risk Assessment, Plan, Policies and Procedures

- CDC: Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Long-term Care Facilities (ICAR)
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/icar/lctcf.pdf>
- CDC: Long Term Care Baseline Prevention Practices Assessment Tool
http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/toolkits/LTC_Assessment_to_of_final.pdf
- APIC: Long Term Care Risk Assessment Sample (included with the Infection Preventionist's Guide to Long-Term Care, 2019) Available for purchase at
<https://rise.apic.org/WEB/ItemDetail?iProductCode=SL6008&Category=BOOKS>
- SPICE: Risk Assessment for LTC Template
<https://spice.unc.edu/resources/template-risk-assessment-for-ltc/>
- SPICE: Long Term Care Program/Policy Sample
<https://spice.unc.edu/resources/607/>



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Infection Preventionist Training and Certification

- APIC: Infection Preventionist Competency Model https://apic.org/Professional-Practice/Infection_preventionist_IP_competency_model
- APIC: Certification in Infection Control (CIC) Certification Resources <https://apic.org/Education-and-Events/Certification>
- AHCA: Infection Preventionist Specialized Training-IPCO https://educate.ahcancal.org/p/ipco#tab-product_tab_overview
- NADONA LTC: Antibiotic Stewardship Program/IP-BC Program <https://www.nadona.org/ip-bc-program-2/>
- CDC/CMS Nursing Home IP Training Course https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training_plan/3814



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Antibiotic Stewardship

- AHRQ: Nursing Home Antimicrobial Stewardship Guide <https://www.ahrq.gov/nhguide/index.html>
- CDC: Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes <https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/pdfs/core-elements-antibiotic-stewardship.pdf>
- SPICE: Infection Management and Antibiotic Stewardship <https://spice.unc.edu/resources/infection-management-antibiotic-stewardship/>
- National Nursing Home Quality Improvement Campaign: Antimicrobial Stewardship Assessment https://www.nhqualitycampaign.org/files/AntibioticStewardship_Assessment.pdf
- TMF Quality Improvement Network (QIN): Nursing Home Training Sessions (CEs available) <http://qioprogram.org/nursing-home-training-sessions>



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Notifiable Conditions

- Texas Department of State Health Services(DSHS)
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/conditions/>



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Surveillance

- CDC: National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/index.html>
- SHEA: Revisiting the McGeer Criteria
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.1086/667743.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A0cf4133b334b0cd7692b2c3643874547>
- APIC: Definitions and Surveillance
- <http://www.apic.org/Professional-Practice/Practice-Resources/Definitions-Surveillance>



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Hand Hygiene

- CDC: Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings.
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf>
- CDC: Clean Hands Save Lives
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/resources.html>
- WHO: Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care 2009
<http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/tools/9789241597906/en/>
- WHO: Five Moments for Hand Hygiene
http://who.int/gpsc/tools/Five_moments/en/
- SPICE Competency Validation
<https://spice.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Hand-Hygiene-Competency-SPICE.pdf>



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PPE

- CDC: Protecting Healthcare Personnel
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/ppe.html>
- APIC: PPE Do's and Don'ts
<http://professionals.site.apic.org/info-graphic/ppe-dos-and-donts/>
- SPICE: Competency Validation
<https://spice.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/PPE-Competency-SPICE.pdf>



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Contacting QMP



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Best practice information is available through:

- On-site visits
- Website - <https://hhs.texas.gov/qmp>
- Email - QMP@hhsc.state.tx.us

Questions?



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Thank you

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hhs.texas.gov/qmp

QMP@hhsc.state.tx.us