

Infection Prevention Essentials

The Infection Prevention (IP) Essentials course serves as both an orientation for newly hired infection preventionists and a foundational program for those with less than two years of experience. It also offers a valuable refresher for seasoned IP professionals. Content is applicable for all settings where healthcare is delivered including, but not limited to, acute care, long term care, critical access, and outpatient facilities and settings.

This six-module course, developed by Rochelle Beard, MSN, RN, CIC, CPHQ, a seasoned infection preventionist and healthcare quality specialist, provides a strong foundation by equipping participants with essential knowledge and resources to help them grow in their role. Each session covers key topics vital to effective infection prevention and control and includes a number of corresponding tools and resources to assist with application of knowledge.

This course is valid for five Infection Prevention Units (IPUs), covering all eight IPU domains, in support of certification/re-certification efforts. A certificate of completion will be provided at the end of the course.

Module 1: Let's Get Started-What to do Your First Day on the Job

This introductory module provides the basis behind the role of the Infection Preventionist including critical regulatory and practice standards and foundational evidence-based practices and their relationship to the organizational infection prevention and control risk assessment. Infection prevention resources and organizations are highlighted, along with tools to support and propel the new IP forward.

Module 2: Foundations of Infection Prevention

The module begins with an introduction of epidemiology basics, the person-place-time elements that are vital for infection prevention and control programs. Basic infection prevention vocabulary is introduced, along with a description of the chain of infection and key points of transmission. This module closes with microbiology essentials and how this area of knowledge links with surveillance and development of performance improvement initiatives.

Module 3: Core Practices of Infection Prevention

This module introduces the CDC's Core Infection Control Practices that are relevant for all settings where care is delivered. These practices directly link with HICPAC guidelines as well as CDC's Project Firstline training and supports the importance of understanding the 'why' behind actions and how decision-making at the bedside impacts infection prevention and control program elements.

Module 4: Occupational Health

Protecting the healthcare worker, including employees, students, volunteers, and others, is a vital component of the infection prevention and control function and demonstrates the importance of collaboration between the infection preventionists and personnel responsible for the facility employee/occupational health program. Using the HICPAC guidance, this

module will review the occupational health program components that include the regulatory basis for the program and address prevention [e.g., immunizations], post-exposure [e.g., post-exposure prophylaxis, furloughs, and work restrictions], and the associated written plans and documents [e.g., TB control plan, bloodborne pathogens plan].

Module 5: Surveillance

Detection of infection, pathogens of interest, and emerging pathogens requires a comprehensive surveillance program. This module will review the basics of surveillance including the program's alignment to the facility risk assessment, water management, vocabulary, the how and why around surveillance, standardized surveillance definitions, regulatory and reporting requirements, and basic elements of outbreak investigation and response.

Module 6: Cleaning, Disinfection, and a Little Sterilization

Ensuring a safe care environment requires emphasis on environmental infection control as well as care of the supplies and pieces of equipment used during performance of patient care activities. This module will provide additional depth on cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization along with emphasis on practice partners including environmental services and sterile processing departments. The Spaulding Classification, the gold standard framework for cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization, will be reviewed along with specific case scenarios that demonstrate application and adherence.

Items provided in this course and all associated content and documents not available through the public domain are considered to be the sole property of Rochelle Beard and may not be used or reproduced without specific written permission.