

## University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers

### Preparing For The Joint Commission: FOCUS ON INFECTION CONTROL

1. Know how to answer surveyors' questions on infection rates and/or the kind of nosocomial infection surveillance being conducted in your area.
  - a) IC&E performs on-going targeted\* surveillance of high risk patients. These rates are reported to appropriate units.
  - b) IC&E staff also looks for any infectious problems occurring anywhere else in the UMHS and any antibiotic-resistant microbes and alerts these areas when problems are detected.
  - c) Nursing, ancillary and other staff plays an important role in the infection surveillance program because they are often the first ones to identify or suspect a nosocomial infection related problem. If potential/possible problems are noted, staff should relay the information to IC&E for follow-up.
  - d) If you do not know the answer to a question about infection rates or surveillance in your area, simply state that you could contact IC&E for an immediate answer.
- \* Targeted means that surveillance for every type of nosocomial infection is not performed. At the UMHHC we target a) nosocomial bloodstream infections in ICU patients, b) certain surgical site infections and c) other infections that have been shown to be a problem in particular areas.
2. Staff should be aware of UMHHC's Infection Control (IC) policies and IC policies/procedures specific to their area. The Joint Commission surveyors will not expect you to have policies memorized, but you should know where to find answers to any infection control questions. Either call IC&E at 936-6355 or go to the IC Web site ([www.med.umich.edu/ice](http://www.med.umich.edu/ice))

**Action for staff:** Joint Commission surveyors may ask you questions! Some of these questions may focus on infection control practices. Know how to retrieve information from the Web site and review the infection control manual and policies. Know how to contact Infection Control & Epidemiology (phone 936-6355 or page 30032).

- **Everyone should be aware of his or her role in the Infection Control (IC) program. Know how to answer the question: How do you control or prevent infections?**

Joint Commission surveyors are looking for answers that include basic IC measures such as a) handwashing, b) using aseptic technique c) always using Body Substance Precautions (BSP) (along with other forms of isolation/precaution, such as Antibiotic Resistance Precautions, when necessary).

- **Know how general IC information is shared.**

This occurs via the unit's IC Liaison, IC Newsletter, IC Liaison meetings and E-mails. IC&E can also be contacted directly by pager or phone for questions.

During inpatient unit visits surveyors will access our performance in all aspects of infection control. Here are some sample questions that might be asked:

**Q:** What aspects of the care provided in your area do you measure, analyze, and improve?

**A:** Prevention of nosocomial infections.

**Q:** What types of aggregate data do you have available to unit staff to support patient care decisions?

**A:** Data on bloodstream infections are collected for all intensive care unit and hem-onc patients; For all areas, the levels of antibiotic resistant microbes, e.g., VRE, are monitored.

Know proper cleaning practices and storage requirements for supplies.

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