

	<b>POLICIES &amp; PROCEDURES</b> Number: <b>10-10</b> Title: <b>Infection Prevention and Control Program</b>
<b>Authorization:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHR Infection Prevention & Control Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Board of Directors	Source: <b>Infection Prevention &amp; Control</b> Date Initiated: April 10, 2001 Date Reaffirmed: June, 2003 Date Revised: September, 2006 Scope: SHR Agencies & Affiliates

### **Introduction**

An Infection Prevention and Control Program provides and coordinates mechanisms for detecting, preventing, controlling and reporting infections that occur within the facility. The program is concerned with practices and procedures in all departments of the facility.

### **Policy**

1. The Infection Prevention and Control Program shall provide current, uniform standards to assist all health care workers in minimizing the risk of infection to patients, visitors and themselves.
2. The Infection Prevention & Control Manual shall be maintained by the Infection Prevention & Control program in electronic and paper format. It will provide policy direction for staff regarding infection prevention and control.

### **Purpose**

1. To prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases throughout the Saskatoon Health Region.
2. To promote awareness of the principles of infection prevention and control amongst health care workers, patients and visitors.
3. To provide policies and procedures.

### **Procedure**

1. Infection prevention and control practice  
The program consists of effective prevention and control activities that are specific to the practice setting, the population served, and the continuum of care. Activities include outcome surveillance, application of existing regulations, standards/guidelines of professional organizations and government agencies, revision of procedures based on current evidence-based infection prevention and control strategies.

2. Epidemiology

The program applies epidemiologic principles and statistical methods, including risk stratification, to identify target populations, analyze trends and risk factors, and design and evaluate prevention and control strategies. Activities include surveillance and investigations and the use of statistical techniques to describe the data, calculate rates, and critically evaluate significance of findings.

3. Surveillance

The program uses a systematic approach to surveillance to monitor the effectiveness of prevention and control strategies that are consistent with the goal and objectives of Saskatoon Health Region (SHR). Activities include development, maintenance, reporting of and, evaluation of surveillance plans based on the population served, services provided and past surveillance data.

4. Education

The program serves as an educational resource for infection prevention and control and health care epidemiology. This includes needs assessment, development, delivery and, evaluation of educational programs. The Infection Prevention and Control Manual is used as an informative reference for reflecting current practices and is updated on a continuing basis.

5. Consultation

The program provides expert knowledge and guidance in epidemiology and infection prevention and control-related issues. Activities include maintaining current knowledge base on infection prevention and control topics.

6. Performance Improvement

The program is an integral component of the plan for improvement of practice and patient outcomes. Activities include identification of opportunities for improvement based on indicators, process and outcome measures, other findings, and observations. Coordinates SHR infection prevention and control improvement activities and participates in SHR multidisciplinary improvement strategies by contributing epidemiologic skills to improvement processes.

7. Program management and evaluation

The program systematically evaluates the quality and effectiveness of the program appropriate to the practice setting. Activities include identification and coordination of opportunities for improvement based on indicators, process and outcome measures and, participation in SHR multidisciplinary improvement strategies.

8. Fiscal responsibility

The program incorporates the principles of fiscal responsibility. Activities include consideration of both clinical outcomes and financial implications when making recommendations for changes in practice, evaluation of newly developed infection surveillance, prevention, and control technology or products for cost-effectiveness, integration of cost accounting data into the analysis of nosocomial infection reports and documentation of cost reduction in SHR through program activities.

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9. Research

The program applies relevant research findings to infection prevention and control practice. Activities include dissemination of relevant published research findings through practice, education, or consultation, collation and sharing of findings from surveillance activities or outbreak investigations, participation in infection prevention and control-related research independently or collaboratively. Publishes or presents research findings to assist in advancing the field of infection prevention and control and epidemiology.

Reference:

1. *APIC/CHICA-Canada infection control and epidemiology: Professional and practice standards*. American Journal of Infection Control 1999; 27: 47-51.