

# Table of Contents

1. Introduction - using this manual
2. Definitions and Formulas
3. Program - Sample 10 Step Indicators
4. Policies and Forms
5. CDC Nosocomial Guidelines

# Introduction

## Surveillance Program for Infection Control

This is a surveillance program intended to act as a guide for agencies as they develop their own infection control program. It has two segments, patient and employee. The following categories are suggested to be monitored:

### Patients

1. Nosocomial - as per CDC guidelines.
2. Indwelling catheters and intermittent catheters.
3. Wounds, pressure ulcers.
4. Ventilator cases.
5. Tuberculosis (TB).
6. IV cases
  - a.) peripheral
  - b.) central lines
7. Tracheostomies.

### Employees

1. Tuberculosis (TB).
2. Occupational exposures to TB and blood borne pathogens.
3. High absenteeism rate (defined as over 4 continuous days).
4. Multiple personnel ill, that provide care to same patient.
5. Conversions to TB.

A patient or employee should be exhibiting at least two of the following symptoms to be classified as having an infectious disease:

- febrile state
- purulent drainage
- cloudy / foul urine
- hematuria
- changes in sputum amount and color
- erythema
- positive culture
- phlebitis
- drainage at site.

# Introduction

Also included in the program are forms, a narrative segment of the infection control surveillance program, definitions, CDC nosocomial guidelines, and infection control methodologies.

The narrative segment conforms to and can be “piggybacked” to the performance improvement programs. It includes a theoretical framework and suggestions for statistical analysis.

Tools to be used can include the following (but use is not restricted to only these examples):

- histograms;
- pareto analysis;
- scatter diagrams;
- run charts;
- control charts;
- flow charts;
- cause and effect diagrams;
- brainstorming;
- solution grid and task sheets.

When establishing an infection control surveillance program the agency or agency designee should:

1. Thoroughly read and review this workbook.
2. Take the theoretical framework and make it agency specific (it is written so that it may be used as is, without changes) if so desired.
3. Identify committee members. If there are no members, move to next step.
4. Identify high risk, problematic areas (if any), or designate practice/policy areas that the agency may want to study or improve.
5. Write these indicators in a measureable outcome format. (See samples) It must be measureable and clearly defined.
6. Again, using the samples, determine:
  - a. who will be responsible
  - b. what data to collect

- c. how to collect the data
- d. how to interpret the data
- e. frequency of collection of data

Be sure to include all areas in samples.

7. Education of agency staff - set up inservices to educate all employees about the infection control surveillance program, new policies (if any), OSHA requirements, new reporting formats and criteria. Allow for input from staff. This program includes policies that can be used.
8. Set startup date for program to begin. Send this information, in writing, to everyone in the agency.
9. Begin program - accumulating data on:
  - occupational exposures
  - nosocomial infections
  - newly acquired patient infections
  - unusual employee absences
  - foley catheter patients (see OASIS)These five areas will comply with accreditation requirements and the new conditions of participation.
10. Present data in a pictorial format to the infection control committee (if your agency has one) or to the performance improvement committee, quarterly. You can present more frequently if you wish.
11. As you begin to tabulate data, your information should fall into one of three categories:
  - a. A problem - needs a plan to fix it. (Remember, the nursing process  
ASSESS  
PLAN  
IMPLEMENT  
EVALUATE.
  - b. No problem - no need to monitor any longer.
  - c. Unsure - Continue to assess for a longer period of time, to determine whether a problem exists or doesn't.

Remember, besides monitoring, the goal is also to improve the practice.