



The Role of the Infection Preventionist



Basics of Infection Prevention
2-Day Mini-Course
2015

Objective

- Describe the role of the Infection Preventionist (IP) in health care
- Discuss relationships important to success in performing the IP

Unique Role of the IP

"There are two pieces that are unique to what IPs and healthcare epidemiologists bring to the table: Data --- knowing what is happening in your institution --- and the knowledge of what needs to be done to prevent infections. Those are the reasons people will invite you when discussing problems related to healthcare safety --- because its something the others don't know. It's what gives us the power."

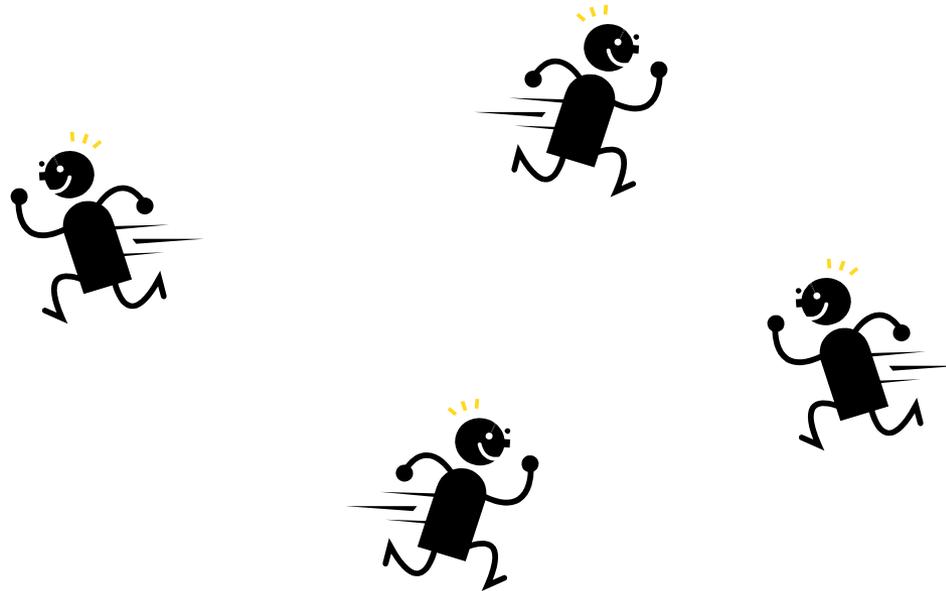
Denise Cardo, MD, Director
CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion



Often times, when we need the cooperation and clear direction of those around us...

Instead of coordinated efforts...

we get...

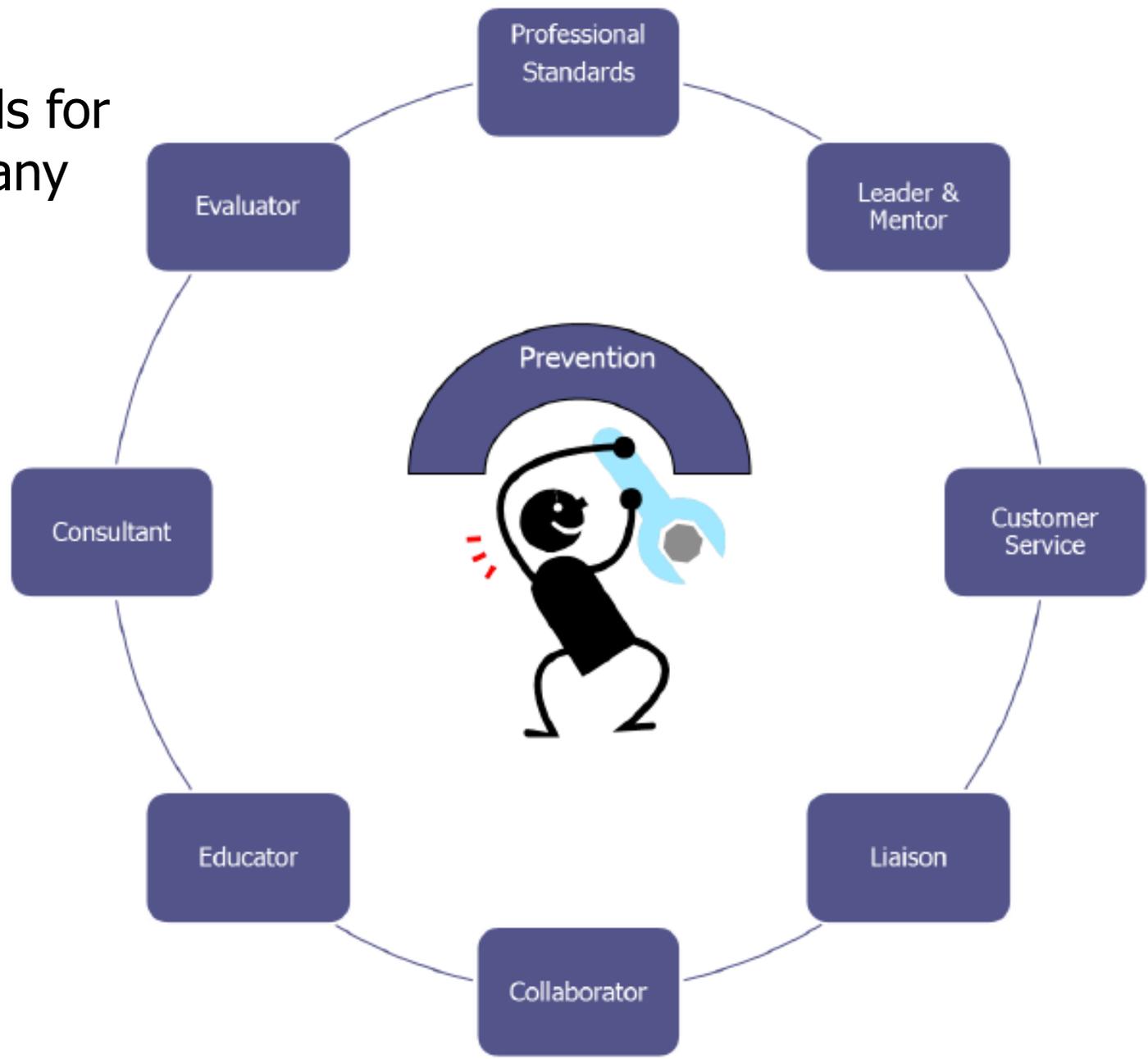


We presume that people want to protect their patients, but they need clear direction, consultation, and support.

What is the Role of the IP?

PREVENTION !

IPs need tools for serving in many roles and to accomplish prevention objectives



Professional Standards for IPs

- Professional Accountability
 - Acquire and maintain knowledge and skills
 - Attend educational conferences
 - Join professional organizations (e.g. APIC, SHEA)
 - Participate in State and local public health events
- Qualifications for hospital-based IP
 - Baccalaureate preferred (nursing, microbiology, epidemiology)
 - Basic training – IP fundamentals course
 - Knowledge, experience, willingness to work hard, listen, and question

IP as Evaluator

- Annual Risk Assessment
- Infection Prevention Plan
- Unit rounding
 - Nursing units, OR, GI Lab, Radiology, ED, Clinics
- Perform surveillance
- Investigate suspected outbreaks
- Educate based on prevention needs/problems

IP as HAI Prevention Expert

- Use epidemiology and microbiology skills
- Analyze, interpret, and feedback surveillance data
- Frequent review of HAI surveillance findings with healthcare providers and leadership:
 - Identifies areas for prevention focus
 - Spurs new prevention efforts
 - Measures progress and sustainability of prevention efforts over time
 - Provides encouragement to continue efforts when prevention success occurs
 - Motivates others to look for new ways (processes, practices) to attain and sustain prevention

IP as Consultant and Influencer

- Construction
- Floods, Fires
- Family and visitor issues
- Dietary, EVS, Lab
- Pet Therapy
- Pandemic!!!

And
more...

Influence: defined as the capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force on or produce effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., of others

IPs have influence – our job is to learn how best to use it to keep patients, staff and visitors safe

IP as Educator

Teach others: staff, visitors, and patients

- Evidence-based infection prevention practices
- Infection risk, prevention and control methods
 - Annual Bloodborne Pathogens and Aerosolized Transmissible Diseases (ATD) classes
 - Updates on Pandemics
 - Influenza, Pertussis, Measles
 - New Employee Orientation
 - Volunteers, Construction Workers, Students
- Community Classes

The public likes to hear what IPs have to say



IP as Collaborator

- It really is ALL about relationships – with your EVS Director, OR Supervisor, Chief Engineer, marketing staff, Materials Management, Lab Director
 - What do you learn from their expertise?
 - Where is teamwork an integral part of finding the solution to the issue at hand?
 - Respect and acknowledgment are a two-way street
- The list is endless...IPs collaborate during disasters, outbreaks, community projects – get to know people now!

IP as Liaison

- Definition: A person who acts as a link to form close working relationships with other people or groups
- IPs serve as link to
 - ✓ Local public health
 - The connection to local services, resources
 - ✓ CDC-NHSN
 - For prevention guidelines and surveillance
 - ✓ Regulators
 - For requirements specific to infection prevention
 - ✓ Patients, visitors, staff, and administration
- IPs serve as an advocate for patient safety

IP as Customer Service

- Who are infection prevention customers?
 - Patients
 - Staff
 - Physicians
 - Visitors
 - Community
 - Public Health
 - Anyone who calls for your consultation services!

IP as Mentor and Leader

- IPs are role models and leaders, whether or not they perceive themselves as such
 - Staff watch your behaviors
 - You make decisions related to ethics and regulations
 - You are responsible for IP policies and procedures
- IPs should identify needs/desire for mentorship
 - Staff nurses interested in IP
 - Students needing a preceptor
 - Begin an IP Liaison team

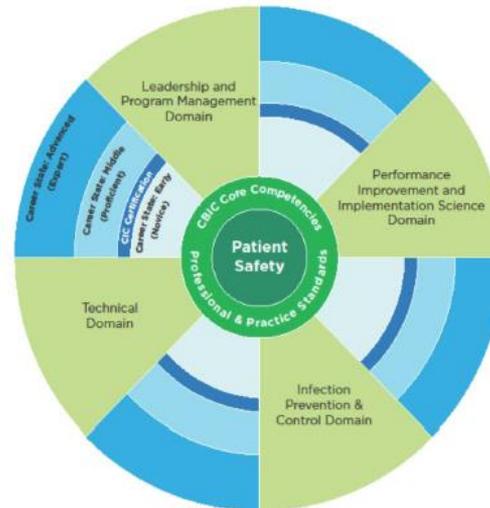
Spreading knowledge. Preventing infection.®



- Surveillance
- Epidemiology & Statistics
- Infectious Diseases
- Microbiology
- Disinfection/Sterilization
- Employee Health
- Principles of Adult Learning
- Outbreak investigations/communicable disease reporting
- Product Evaluation
- Policies & procedures

- More care is given in more settings across continuum
- Quality Improvement/prevention of other adverse events
- Waste Management
- Construction
- Bioterrorism Planning
- Pandemic Planning
- Technology – both @ bedside and informatics
- Mandatory reporting
- Other legislative issues

APIC Competency Model
for the Infection Preventionist



Green areas indicate critical domains required for the expanding IP role.

SV 11-08-11



WE ARE IPs!

Competency Model used with permission of APIC, Inc.



Questions?

For more information, please contact any
HAI Liaison Team member

Thank you