

## Infection Preventionist Training for Acute Care Hospitals (ACH) Online Course

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#### **Description:**

This 20-hour, self-paced course is designed for healthcare professionals to work around their schedule and does not have to be completed in one session. There is no cost to attend the course; preregistration is required. Twenty continuing education credits will be granted to those who complete the entire course and pass the post test for each module (no partial credit will be issued).

This online course provides practical guidance for implementing an infection prevention program in an acute care hospital (ACH) using evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAI) including central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), surgical site infections (SSI), COVID-19, and pneumonia. Students will learn how to measure staff adherence to infection prevention care practices, educate and provide feedback to staff. Students will also learn how to use their facility HAI data to focus infection prevention strategies, conduct an outbreak investigation, and how to implement the essential activities to prevent employee infections.

#### **Suggested Audience:**

Persons responsible for infection prevention and control in an ACH. This would include individuals who have completed post-secondary education in biology, epidemiology, laboratory technology, medicine, nursing, public health, or a related field.

#### **Primary Objectives:**

At the completion of this course, the participant will be able to:

- Discuss the most important care practices for preventing CLABSI, CDI, HAI, SSI, pneumonia, CAUTI, and COVID-19
- List evidence-based sources for infection prevention recommendations
- Discuss principles of infection surveillance and other core disciplines such as microbiology, cleaning/disinfection/sterilization, care of the environment, antimicrobial stewardship, outbreak management, and employee health
- Demonstrate how to create an individualized facility risk assessment and infection control plan
- Describe how to analyze and use HAI data to focus infection prevention activities
- Describe national, state, and local regulatory bodies that oversee infection prevention and HAI public reporting

California Department of Public Health/HAI Program approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider # 17280, for 20 contact hours.

## Course Slides

- **ACH IP Course Overview with an Introduction to Implicit Bias**
  - **An Introduction to Implicit Bias Objectives:**
    - Define the term “implicit bias”
    - Discuss how implicit bias affects a real-world situation by completing a case study
    - Describe how implicit bias affects infection prevention programs
  - **The Role of the Infection Preventionist and Core Infection Prevention Practices**
    - **The Role of the Infection Preventionist Objectives:**
      - Describe the role of infection preventionists (IP) in health care
      - Discuss relationships important to success in performing the IP roles
    - **Core Infection Prevention Practices Objectives:**
      - Review how a care practice becomes an infection prevention recommendation
      - Describe core infection prevention practices that must be used in all care settings, all the time
- **Standard and Transmission-based Precautions**
  - **Standard Precautions Objectives:**
    - Describe all 6 elements of Standard precautions
    - Review adherence monitoring results and tools for select Standard precautions care practices
  - **Transmission bases Precaution Objectives:**
    - Describe Transmission-based (isolation) precautions
    - Review correct donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE)
    - Discuss COVID-19 precautions
    - Understand Enhanced Standard precautions used in California skilled nursing facilities
    - Review adherence monitoring to assess Transmission-based precautions practices in healthcare facilities
- **Cleaning, Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing Reusable Equipment**
  - **Cleaning, Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing Reusable Equipment Objectives:**
    - Describe the role of the environment in transmitting infections
    - Discuss strategies to ensure effectiveness of cleaning and disinfection
    - Demonstrate use of adherence monitoring tools and feedback
    - Review methods for reprocessing reusable medical devices and equipment
    - Identify criteria for low, intermediate, and high-level disinfection and the Spaulding classification system
    - Provide examples of non-critical, semi-critical, and critical devices
    - Discuss instrument sterilization methods
- **Introduction to Microbiology**
  - **Introduction to Microbiology Objectives:**
    - Describe basic laboratory tests for identifying infection processes and infectious pathogens
    - Discuss common Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) pathogens

- ***Clostridioides difficile* Infection Prevention**
  - ***Clostridioides difficile* Infection Prevention Objectives:**
    - Describe the cause and epidemiology of *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI)
    - Review evidence-based CDI prevention strategies
    - Describe importance of adherence monitoring and feedback
  
- **Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infection, Urinary Tract Infection, and Pneumonia Prevention**
  - **Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infection Prevention Objectives:**
    - Describe the etiology and epidemiology of central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI)
    - Identify patients at risk for CLABSI
    - Review evidence based CLABSI prevention care practices
    - Discuss CLABSI adherence monitoring and feedback
  - **Urinary Tract Infection Prevention Objectives:**
    - Describe healthcare-associated urinary tract infections (UTI)
    - Review evidence-based clinical practices shown to prevent catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)
    - Discuss strategies to reduce CAUTI incidence rates
    - Discuss CAUTI adherence monitoring and feedback
  - **Pneumonia Prevention Objectives:**
    - Describe the problem of healthcare-associated pneumonia in acute care facilities
    - List evidence-based pneumonia prevention care practices
    - Review healthcare-associated *Legionella* prevention
    - Review influenza prevention strategies
    - Describe adherence monitoring of pneumonia prevention practices
  
- **Surgical Site Infection Prevention and Surveillance**
  - **Surgical Site Infection Prevention Objectives:**
    - Review the epidemiology of surgical site infections (SSI)
    - Explore causes and mechanisms of SSI
    - Describe evidence-based practices for preventing SSI
    - Discuss adherence monitoring and feedback
  - **Surgical Site Infection Surveillance Objectives:**
    - Discuss importance of accurate data collection in calculating surgical patient probability of SSI
    - Discuss use of ICD-10 diagnostic “flag” codes to improve SSI case finding
    - Review SSI surveillance definitions and methods
    - Demonstrate how to report SSI data in NHSN
    - Discuss NHSN data analysis and feedback to staff
  
- **Antibiotic Resistance, Antibiotic Stewardship, and Infection Prevention**
  - **Antibiotic Resistance Objectives:**
    - Discuss the problem of antimicrobial resistance
    - Summarize background information on novel and emerging multidrug—resistant organisms (MDRO) in California
    - Understand principles of MDRO containment
    - Provide guidance to prevent MDRO transmission within a healthcare facility

- **Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Prevention Objectives:**
  - Illustrate the link between antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention
  - Review core elements of antimicrobial stewardship, and opportunities for coordination with infection prevention
  - Review roles of nursing staff in antimicrobial stewardship programs
- **Outbreaks and Unusual Infection Occurrences (includes Foodborne Illnesses)**
  - **Outbreaks and Unusual Infection Occurrences Objectives:**
    - Define outbreaks and unusual disease occurrences
    - Describe reporting requirements to public health
    - Provide examples of outbreaks
    - Review the steps in an outbreak investigation
  - **Foodborne Illnesses Objectives:**
    - List sources of foodborne illnesses that can occur in acute care facilities
    - Describe how food can become contaminated during handling and storage
    - Name organisms that can cause foodborne illnesses
    - Describe how foodborne illnesses can be prevented
- **Other Infections and Specialty Area Infection Prevention Considerations**
  - **Other Infections and Specialty Area Infection Prevention Considerations Objectives:**
    - Review activities necessary for continued COVID-19 prevention
    - List the epidemiology, risk factors, and treatment of lice and scabies
    - Discuss challenges and recommendations for infection prevention in specialty areas of acute care hospitals and other settings
    - Describe pathogens and diseases common in high-risk specialty areas
- **Epidemiology, Surveillance, and an Introduction to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)**
  - **Epidemiology and Surveillance Objectives:**
    - Discuss basic principles of epidemiology and how they apply to healthcare-associated infection (HAI) surveillance
    - Review recommended surveillance practices
    - Describe surveillance outcome and process measures for infection prevention
    - List reasons to use SIR and TAP reports when giving feedback
  - **Introduction to NHSN Objectives:**
    - Review mandatory HAI surveillance and reporting requirements
    - Describe National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) and key terms
    - Demonstrate how to use NHSN
    - Review how to interpret NHSN reports
- **MRSA and VRE Bloodstream Infection and C. difficile Infection Surveillance**
  - **MRSA, VRE BSI, and CDI Surveillance Objectives:**
    - Review methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and vancomycin resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) bloodstream infection (BSI) and *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) surveillance methods and definitions
    - Discuss importance of accurate data collection
    - Demonstrate how to report MRSA and VRE BSI, and CDI data, using Lab ID, in National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
    - Discuss NHSN data analysis and feedback to staff

- **Device Associated Infections Surveillance: CLABSI, CAUTI, and Ventilator Associated Events (VAE)**
  - **CLABSI Surveillance Objectives:**
    - Review CLABSI surveillance definitions
    - Discuss importance of accurate CLABSI data collection
    - Demonstrate how to report CLABSI events summary data in NHSN
    - Discuss NHSN CLABSI data analysis and feedback to staff
  - **CAUTI Surveillance Objectives:**
    - Review CAUTI surveillance definitions
    - Discuss importance of accurate CAUTI data collection
    - Demonstrate how to report CAUTI data in NHSN
    - Discuss NHSN CAUTI data analysis and feedback to staff
  - **VAE Surveillance Objectives:**
    - Describe surveillance definitions for pneumonia (PNEU), ventilator associated events (VAE), and possible ventilator associated pneumonia (PVAP)
    - Demonstrate how to use the NHSN VAE Calculator
    - Review importance of feedback of VAE HAI results to staff
  
- **Performing a Facility Risk Assessment & Writing IPC Plan and Adult Learning Principles**
  - **Performing a Risk Assessment and IPC Plan Objectives:**
    - Describe the purpose of an infection prevention and control (IPC) plan
    - Discuss the importance of incorporating the results of an infection control risk assessment into your IPC Plan
    - List modifications your IPC Plan should include to accommodate risks present in your patient population
  - **Adult Learning Principle Objectives:**
    - Review adult learning principles and how they can be applied to infection prevention education
    - Discuss educational concerns for the adult learner when planning infection prevention education sessions
    - Identify how to address at least one adult learning barrier while conducting infection prevention presentations
  
- **Preventing Employee Infections**
  - **Preventing Employee Infections Objectives:**
    - Review essential activities of Employee Health programs
    - Describe communicable disease screening and immunization guidance
    - Describe prevention of bloodborne and airborne diseases
    - Review priorities in post exposure management
  
- **State and Federal Regulatory Requirements**
  - **State and Federal Regulatory Requirement Objectives:**
    - Describe national, state, and local regulatory bodies that oversee infection prevention and HAI public reporting
    - Describe policy decisions and requirements for public reporting of HAI
    - Review current infection control-related regulations

- **Communications**
  - **Communications Objectives:**
    - Describe how to develop and communicate infection prevention plans and findings to facility leaders and staff
    - Discuss effective processes for internal facility communication
    - Review a communication tool for sharing information with health care providers
    - Illustrate how to share infection information with external facility partners
- **Acute Care Adventures: From Surveillance and Beyond (Case Studies & Practice Quiz)**
  - **Acute Care Adventures Objectives:**
    - Review acute care infection prevention principles and practices
    - Apply learned material to real-world situations
- **Resources for Acute Healthcare Facility Infection Preventionists**
  - **Resources for Acute Healthcare Facility Infection Preventionists Objectives:**
    - Review CDPH HAI Program resources for supporting acute care hospital IPs
    - Describe sources of information, tools, training, and other resources for acute care hospital IPs
    - Discuss professional organizations and networking that can aid the new acute care hospital IPs

Contact the HAI Program at [HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov)