Infection Prevention Assessments: Maximizing Your On-Site Impact

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Objectives

1. Describe the key goals of an infection control assessment and response (ICAR) program for healthcare facilities and local health departments.

2. Design an ICAR workflow that maximizes your impact while on-site.

3. Propose local health department infection prevention activities based on ICAR results.
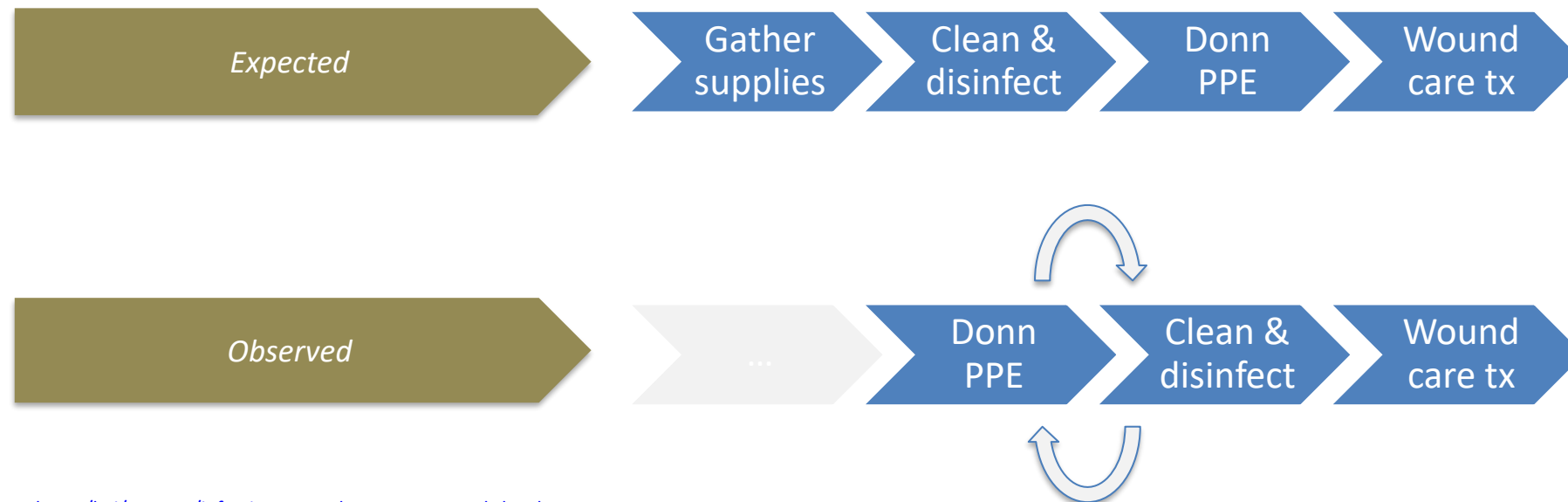
Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Programs

What is an ICAR? What is the Goal?

- Tool for assessing a healthcare facility's infection prevention and control (IPC) practices; a gap analysis

Expected	Gather supplies	Clean & disinfect	Donn PPE	Wound care tx

Observed	…	Donn PPE	Clean & disinfect	Wound care tx

1.https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html

What are the benefits of an ICAR?

For Healthcare Facilities (HCFs)

- No-cost, comprehensive IPC assessment
- Relationship building with LHDs
- Improve IPC processes
- Improve IPC outcomes
- Recognition from LHD
  - Certificate of completion
  - Honorary program

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For Local Health Departments (LHDs)

- Data
  - How are HCFs combating infections?
  - What challenges are HCFs facing?
  - Direct observations
- Relationship building with HCFs
- Target educational programs

Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) ICARs in Long-Term Care Facilities

Long-Term Care Facilities

- < 350 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
- ~ 3,000 Community Care Facilities (CCFs)
- Excluding Long Beach and Pasadena facilities

COVID-19 impact

Elements of an ICAR

Before	During	After
• Schedule • Prepare internally	• Survey • Policy review • Direct observations	• Write up assessment • Provide assessment and recommendations • Potential follow up

Click on each Module below to open the tool in a fillable PDF document.

Module 1 – Training, Audits, Feedback 📄 [PDF – 5 pages]
Module 2 – Hand Hygiene 📄 [PDF – 7 pages]
Module 3 – Transmission-Based Precautions (TBP) 📄 [PDF – 30 pages]
Module 4 – Environmental Services (EVS) 📄 [PDF – 18 pages]
Module 5 – High-level Disinfection and Sterilization 📄 [PDF – 13 pages]
Module 6 – Injection Safety 📄 [PDF – 11 pages]
Module 7 – Point of Care (POC) Blood Testing 📄 [PDF – 8 pages]
Module 8 – Wound Care 📄 [PDF – 9 pages]
Module 9 – Healthcare Laundry 📄 [PDF – 9 pages]
Module 10 – Antibiotic Stewardship 📄 [PDF – 5 pages]
Module 11 – Water Exposure 📄 [PDF – 18 pages]

Click on each link below to open the form in a fillable PDF document.

Observation Form – Hand Hygiene 📄 [PDF – 3 pages]
Observation Form – Transmission-Based Precautions (TBP) 📄 [PDF – 16 pages]
Observation Form – Environmental Services (EVS) 📄 [PDF – 15 pages]
Observation Form – High-level Disinfection and Sterilization 📄 [PDF – 10 pages]
Observation Form – Injection Safety 📄 [PDF – 10 pages]
Observation Form – Point of Care (POC) Blood Testing 📄 [PDF – 7 pages]
Observation Form – Wound Care 📄 [PDF – 7 pages]
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1.https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html

Noteworthy Perspective

- Stress
- Time

How can we accomplish the goals of an ICAR

Without taking too much of the HCF's time?

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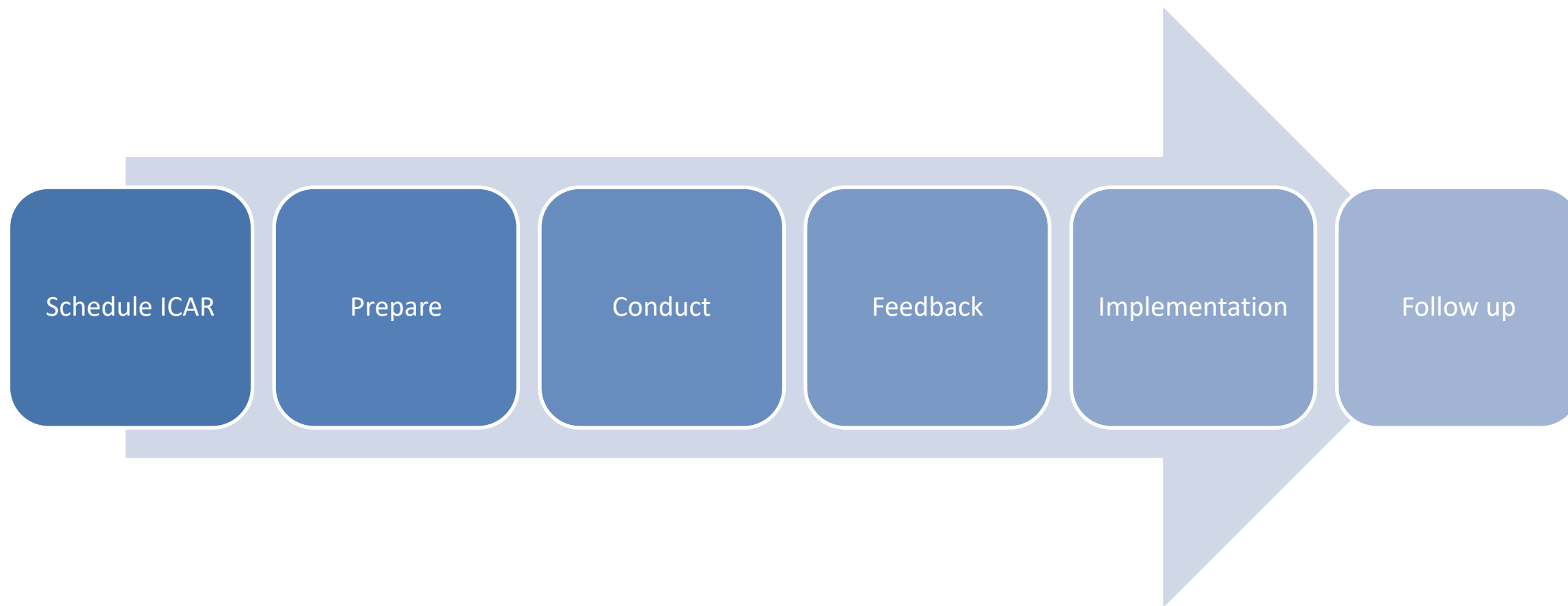*Without taking too much of the HCF's time?*

Without straining their capacity to retain information?

ICAR Workflow

LAC DPH ICAR Workflow for Long-Term Care Facilities

Schedule ICAR → Prepare → Conduct → Feedback → Implementation → Follow up

Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

1. Schedule the ICAR

Identify LTCFs in need of assistance
- Lengthy or significant outbreak
- Unresponsive to outreach

Allow LTCFs to express interest
- Interest form on our websites
- Highlighted in other forms of outreach

Establish an internal scheduling system
- Dedicated days of the week with staff availability
- Shared site visit calendar (MS Teams)

About the SNF ICAR Program

The Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Program is a collaboration between the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) and LAC SNFs to work towards the common goal of improving safety and quality of care for residents, staff, and visitors. The LAC DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control Program (ACDC) Long Term Care team assesses a facility's Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices following a standardized gap assessment based off the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s ICAR tool in order to provide feedback to the facility on how they can improve their IPC practices.

This program aims to assist facilities with implementing IPC best practices and improving IPC programs. Our purpose is to serve one of the most vulnerable populations (e.g., nursing home residents) by serving their providers – the SNFs.

Please note: We are not inspectors or surveyors, so this is not a licensing or certification visit, but an opportunity to share information and provide consultation.

All LAC SNFs (excluding Long Beach and Pasadena) are eligible to participate in the SNF ICAR Program.

Sign Up

Sign-up is now available. Please click here to sign-up.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

1.http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ICARProgram/index.htm

Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

2. Prepare

Complete set modules over the phone with LTCF
- E.g., demographics, training/auditing/feedback

Internal pre-visit meeting
- Discuss LTCF's concerns and takeaways from modules completed over the phone
- Discuss logistics (e.g., parking, printing)
- Assign tasks:
  - ❑ IP to conduct survey and tour
  - ❑ Nurse consultant(s) to conduct direct observations

Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

3. Conduct the ICAR (2-3 hours)

Pre-ICAR conference
   • Meet with LTCF leadership
   • LTCF and LHD introductions, ICAR overview
 	
Divide into teams
   • LHD IP conducts survey and interview
   • Nurse consultant(s) complete direct observations
   • Both teams provide direct intervention to LTCF staff
 	
Discuss findings and recommendations with LTCF IP
   • IP to IP discussion
 	
Post-ICAR conference
   • Higher level overview to LTCF leadership

12:23 ◀ Outlook

Module 9: Standard and Transmission-based Precaution

Acronyms on this page:

- TBP: transmission-based precautions

Resources:

- LAC DPH TBP Signage
- LAC DPH Infectious Organism Inter-facility Transfer Form
- CDPH, HCAI, and Cal-OSHA's joint guidance: "Interim Guidance for Ventila Environments"
- CDC ICAR Version
- CDC Appendix A: Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmis Settings (2007)

Which types of TBP does the facility use?

- ☑ Contact
- ☑ Droplet
- ☐ Airborne
- ☑ Enhanced Standard Precautions
- ☐ Novel Respiratory Precautions
- ☐ Unknown or unsure

Select all that apply

Describe how the facility identifies when admissions or re-admissions nee

- ☐ Requesting sending facility (hospital) to complete an infectious organism in arrival at the facility
- ☐ Reviewing all pertinent point-of-care and laboratory results prior to resident'
- ☐ Nurse to nurse report/verbal communication
- ☐ Following physician/clinical provider orders
- ☐ Following CDC's Appendix A: Guideline for Isolation Precautions
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None

Select all that apply

Describe how the facility identifies when currently admitted residents nee

- ☐ Reviewing all pertinent point-of-care and laboratory results in a timely way
- ☐ Ongoing surveillance of symptoms and vital signs
- ☐ Following physician/clinical provider orders
- ☐ Following CDC's Appendix A: Guideline for Isolation Precautions
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None

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Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

4. Provide Feedback

Complete the ICAR survey in REDCap
- Upload or enter direct observation data
- Each module has a space to enter detailed recommendations

Write a secure email
- Include top 5 recommendations
- Include list of resources
- Attach detailed pdf of ICAR

As needed:
- Virtual meeting with LTCF to discuss more complex or detailed guidance (e.g., enhanced barrier precaution implementation/MDRO cohorting)

Example of top 5 Recommendations:
1. Include the following elements in your hand hygiene program: delegating audits to department supervisors, implementing accountability, and sharing data trends with frontline staff.
2. Meet with the Environmental Services Supervisor and discuss expectations and develop a standardized workflow for cleaning and disinfection in your facility.
3. Develop an enhanced barrier precautions policy so you are in compliance with CMS. Before writing the policy, complete a tabletop exercise (or multiple exercises) with staff to determine an effective workflow that addresses various scenarios and nuances.
4. Develop a plan for the 2024-2025 respiratory virus season including pharmacy partnerships, promoting COVID-19, influenza and RSV vaccines as recommended by public health, tracking immunizations, and increasing vaccine acceptance with your staff.
5. Implement a tagging system for the laundry carts so they are clearly labeled as cleaned and disinfected.

Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

5. Implementation

LTCF to implement recommendations as they see fit
    • Encouraged to use quality assurance/performance improvement approaches
    • Encouraged to set reasonable goals with implementation (consider competing priorities such as immunizations for respiratory viral season)
    • Encouraged to reach out to LHD IP or nurse consultants with questions

Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

6. Follow up

Post-ICAR survey (optional)
 	
As needed:
    • Referral to other outreach programs
    • Virtual site visit
    • Additional in-person site visit

LAC DPH ICAR Workflow Takeaways

- Cut down on time

- Direct intervention

- Consider how you deliver information to the IP vs to other leadership staff

  - IP: improving the IPC program

  - Leadership staff: supporting the IPC program

Use Your ICAR Results

Develop Resources That Address Gaps

Examples of gaps

- Hand hygiene
    - Inadequate access
    - Low adherence

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- Environmental cleaning and disinfection
  - Starting in the resident bathroom
  - Not observe disinfectant contact time

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Handouts

Checklists

Websites

Videos

Webinars

LAC DPH Developed Resources: Transmission-based Precautions

1.http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm
2.http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/IPContactPrecautions.pdf

LAC DPH Developed Resources: Handouts

1. http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/IPCleaningandDisinfection.pdf
2. http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/IPCTrainingforSNFs.htm

LAC DPH Developed Resources: Handouts

1.http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/LTC_HandHygiene.pdf
2.http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/IPCTrainingforSNFs.htm

LAC DPH Developed Resources: Webinars

Program Content Past Sessions

Training content for each session can be found below.

Session 5: Ask an IP Series (01/10/2024 - TBD) +

Session 4: Ask an IP Series (07/12/2023 - 11/08/2023) −

November 2023: *Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Part 3 of 3* −

Slides | Recording

October 2023: *Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Part 2 of 3* +

September 2023: *Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Part 1 of 3* +

August 2023: *Influenza in Skilled Nursing Facilities* +

July 2023: *Norovirus Outbreak Control in Skilled Nursing Facilities* +

Session 3: Ask an IP Series (03/09/2022 - 05/11/2022) +

Ask an IP
Learning and Communication Series

Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR)
Part 3 of 3

November 8, 2023
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Acute Communicable Disease Control Program
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

1.http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/AskAnIPProgram/index.htm
2.http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/AskAnIPProgram/Session4/Session4November2023.pdf

The Need for Resources

Handouts

Checklists

Websites

Videos

Webinars

Sources

- https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html
- http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm

Resources

- IPC training for SNFs: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/IPCTrainingforSNFs.htm
  - External resources (CDPH, CDC, APIC, CAHF, Oregon Patient Safety Commission)
  - Handouts

- Ask an IP Series: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/AskAnIPProgram/index.htm
  - Slide decks
  - Recordings

- Transmission-based precautions: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm
  - Currently located in Section 4. Transmission-based Precautions

Thank you!

Questions?