10 STEPS OF AN INFECTION CONTROL AND RESPONSE ASSESSMENT (ICAR)

Helping Healthcare Professionals Prevent Infection and Promote Health
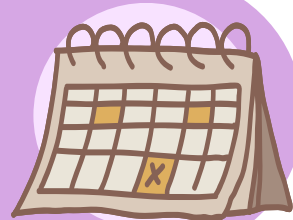
01. Initiate Contact

- **Step**: Reach out to an Epidemiologist at the local health department (LHD) to coordinate the ICAR request.
- **Benefit**: Establish relationship with LHD for support and resources.

02. Pre-Visit Planning

- **Step**: Schedule visit with ICAR Person Of Contact (POC) and gather any recent outbreak data, audits, and policy procedures.
- **Benefit**: Ensures a thorough and focused assessment.

03. Self-Assessment

- **Step**: Conduct a preliminary self-assessment using the CDC ICAR tool.
- **Benefit**: Identifies apparent gaps before the official visit.

04. On-Site Visit

- **Step**: Greet LHD team, provide pre-assessment findings, and address any questions or concerns.
- **Benefit**: ICAR POC provides valuable external perspective.

05. Observation

- **Step**: Observe, document, and, if feasible, assist in directing the infection control assessment.
- **Benefit**: Real-time feedback on actual practices in your facility.

06. Interviews

- **Step**: During ICAR, conduct interviews with healthcare personnel (EVS, nursing).
- **Benefit**: Gain insights into staff awareness and adherence.

07. Policy Review

- **Step**: Review infection control policies and procedures with ICAR POC.
- **Benefit**: Ensures policies are current and effective.

08. Immediate Feedback

- **Step**: Be open to on-the-spot feedback and recommendations.
- **Benefit**: Quick adjustments can be made to improve practices.

09. Detailed Report

- **Step**: Anticipate receiving comprehensive report with findings.
- **Benefit**: Detailed action plan for long-term improvements.

10. Follow-Up Support

- **Step**: Begin implementing changes and get continuous support from your ICAR POC.
- **Benefit**: Sustains improvements and ensures compliance.

ICAR Long-lasting Impacts

1. Improved patient safety
Reduces risk of healthcare-associated infections.

2. Enhanced staff knowledge
Ongoing education ensures up-to-date practices.

3. Better compliance
Adheres to regulatory standards, avoiding penalties.

4. Cost savings
Efficient use of resources like PPE and cleaning supplies.

5. Higher quality care
Improved practices lead to better patient outcomes.

6. Increased staff morale
Confidence in infection control measures boosts morale.

7. Readiness for outbreaks
Enhanced preparedness for public health emergencies.
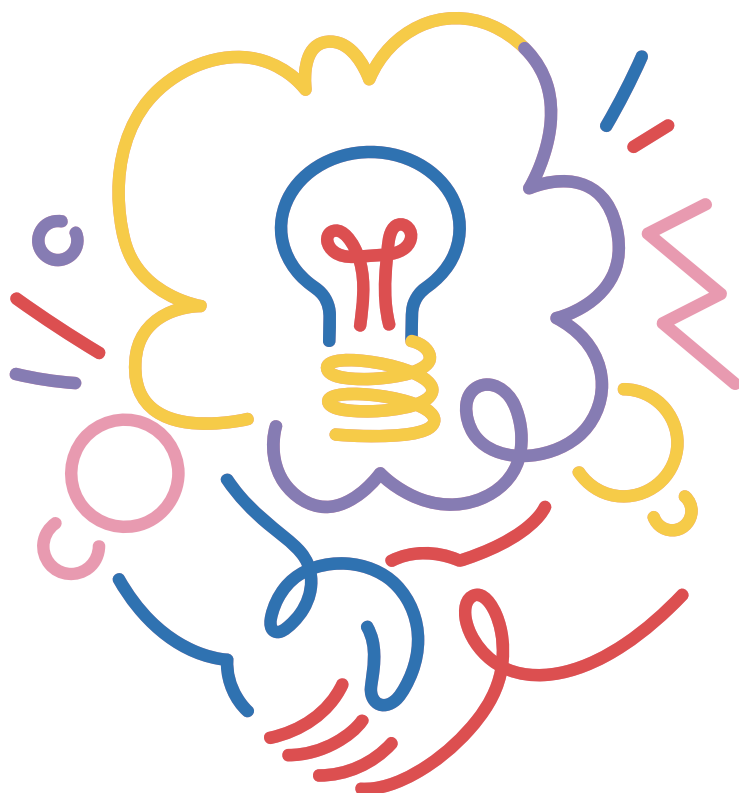
8. Customized strategies
Tailored solutions address specific facility needs.

9. Sustainable improvements
Continuous support ensures lasting changes.

10. Competitive advantage
Demonstrates commitment to safety and quality, attracting more patients.

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SAMHD EPI Website   CDC ICAR Tool