The Joint Commission

Proposed IC Chapter Requirements for the Behavioral Health Care and Human Services Accreditation Program

IC.04.01.01

Standard text: The organization establishes processes for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

Elements of Performance (EPs) for IC.04.01.01

EP 1 The organization assigns responsibility for the infection prevention and control program to one or more individuals who are qualified through training in infection control.
(See also HRM.01.01.01, EP 1)

EP 2 The designated individual(s) oversees the following:
- Maintenance of a sanitary environment
- Development and implementation of infection control activities
- Monitoring compliance with all policies, procedures, protocols, and other infection control program requirements
- Compliance with reportable disease requirements of the local health authority

EP 3 The organization has policies and procedures that are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice, including the use of standard precautions.
Note: Standard precautions include hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, injection and medication safety, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), minimizing potential exposures, and reprocessing of reusable medical equipment or devices. For full details on standard precautions, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html.

EP 8 The organization provides job-specific infection control education and training to staff.

EP 9 The organization provides supplies to support infection prevention and control activities.
Note: Examples of supplies include alcohol-based hand sanitizers, hand soap, personal protective equipment, and cleaning and disinfection supplies.

IC.06.01.01

Standard text: The organization implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

Elements of Performance (EPs) for IC.06.01.01

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EP 1 To prioritize the infection prevention and control program's activities and determine what resources are necessary for the program, the organization identifies risks for infection, contamination, and exposure that pose a risk to individuals served and staff based on the following:
- Care, treatment, and services it provides
- Relevant infection control issues identified by the local, state, or federal public health authorities that could impact the organization
Note: Risks may include organisms with a propensity for transmission within health care and residential facilities based on published reports and the occurrence of clusters of patients (for example, norovirus, respiratory syncytial virus [RSV], influenza, COVID-19) and bloodborne pathogens (for example, hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]).

EP 2 The organization reviews identified risks at least annually or whenever significant changes in risk occur.

EP 3 The organization implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases, including the use of standard precautions.
(See also NPSG.07.01.01, EP 1)

EP 6 The organization develops and implements action plans when infection control issues arise, including non-adherence with infection control policies and procedures.
Note: The organization evaluates and revises its plan as needed.

EP 8 Staff handle, store, process, and transport linens in accordance with local or state regulations.

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