

# Infection Prevention and Control Standards

*(Not in effect until approved)*

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the minimum expectations for registrants to protect the health and safety of their patients, themselves, staff and the public by preventing and reducing the transmission of infection. Patients can expect registrants to implement infection prevention and control (IP&C) best practices that prevent, reduce and control the transmission of infection.

## Standards

Registrants must meet the following criteria:

1. Practice in accordance with current legislation and regulation (for example, the *Public Health Act* [2000]) and standards related to IP&C.
2. Practice in accordance with IP&C **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS**.
3. Identify the need for IP&C administrative controls and intervene if they do not support best practice.
4. Follow IP&C best practices and perform IP&C interventions and activities competently.
5. Intervene and provide appropriate care when a patient has been exposed to a microorganism that puts them at higher risk for infection.
6. Report, using required methods, when IP&C administrative controls, standards or legislation have not been followed.
7. Report notifiable diseases according to legislative and administrative control requirements.
8. Maintain sterility of sterile objects and areas.
9. **REPROCESS** medical devices according to standards (for example, the *Reusable and Single-Use Medical Devices Standards* [Alberta Health, Government of Alberta 2019]), administrative controls and manufacturers' instructions.
10. Use only reusable medical devices which have had the required level of reprocessing.

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11. Follow standards (for example, *Reusable and Single-Use Medical Device Standards* [Alberta Health, Government of Alberta, 2019]) and employer requirements for single-use medical devices.
  12. Be aware of their personal immunization status and how it could impact risk related to the transmission of infection.
  13. Recognize if they are ill or unwell, and take action to reduce transmission of infection to others, including consultation with a health-care professional as appropriate.
  14. Consistently use **ROUTINE PRACTICES**:
    - a) perform a **POINT OF CARE RISK ASSESSMENT**
    - b) practice hand hygiene
    - c) use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) according to administrative controls and guidelines, and as indicated by the point of care risk assessment (e.g., gloves, gown, mask, facial protection and/or respirators)
    - d) use **ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE** for injections and intravascular and other invasive procedures
    - e) implement environmental infection control strategies to reduce the transmission of microorganisms (e.g., safe use and disposal of sharps, cleaning protocols for environment and equipment, ventilation, etc.)
    - f) implement administrative controls such as IP&C training and recommended immunizations
    - g) follow standards, administrative controls and manufacturers' guidelines related to safe use, cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of medical devices
  15. Assess and implement **ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS**, if required.
  16. Assess the patient's immunization status.
  17. Assess the patient's understanding of IP&C best practices and provide appropriate education.
  18. Complete the necessary reporting forms and contribute to data collection as required for IP&C.
  19. Provide care, education and guidance to the patient, staff and public who have been exposed to microorganisms.
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## Glossary

**ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS** – Measures used when routine practices alone may not prevent transmission of an infectious agent (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2016).

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS** – “Policies, procedures and patient care practices intended to prevent exposure to and/or transmission of microorganisms to a susceptible host during the provision of health care” (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2016).

**ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE** – “The purposeful prevention of transfer of microorganisms from the patient’s body surface to a normally sterile body site or from one person to another by keeping the microbe count to an irreducible minimum” (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2016).

**MEDICAL DEVICE(S)** – “Any instrument, apparatus, appliance, material, or other article, whether used alone or in combination, including the software necessary for its proper application, intended by the manufacturer to be used for a human being for any of the following purposes:

- diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment, or alleviation of disease
- diagnosis, monitoring, treatment or alleviation of, or compensation for, an injury or handicap
- investigation, replacement or modification of the anatomy, or of a physiologic process or control of conception” (Alberta Health, 2019).

**POINT OF CARE RISK ASSESSMENT** – An activity to evaluate the likelihood of exposure to an infection agent and choose the appropriate actions/personal protective equipment needed to minimize the risk of exposure (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2016).

**REPROCESS** – “The cleaning, disinfection, and/or sterilization of a potentially contaminated medical device so that it is safe and effective for use on a client” (Alberta Health, 2019).

**ROUTINE PRACTICES** – “A comprehensive set of infection prevention and control measures that have been developed for use in routine care of all patients at all times in all healthcare settings” (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2016).

## References

Alberta Health, Government of Alberta. (2019). *Reusable and single-use medical devices standards: Standards for the reprocessing of reusable medical devices and for the use of single-use medical devices in all health care facilities and settings*.  
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460145470>

*Public Health Act*, RSA 2000, c P-37.

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2016). *Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in healthcare settings*. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections-2016-FINAL-eng.pdf>