

RN Infection Preventionist (IP)

Position Overview

- Evaluates the quality of resident care and outcomes as they relate to Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAI) and Community Acquired Infections (CAI) in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and Clear Choice Health Care standards.
- Collects, prepares, and analyzes HAI/CAI data.
- Presents infection data and makes recommendations for actions.
- Monitors staff compliance with infection control standards through use of barriers and infection prevention measures.
- Prepares and presents education for the staff, residents, and families.
- Serves as a resource to all departments and personnel.
- Reports to Director of Nursing (DON)

Basic Qualifications

Education and Certification:

RN degree (ASN minimum) from an accredited college or nursing school; current RN licensure within the state of practice; CPR certification required.

Must complete an approved Infection Preventionist Training Program (e.g., CIC, CBIC, IP-BC, IPCA, CDC, FHCA) within 90 days of hire or appointment to the position. Must provide proof of certification or training per State requirements.

Skills & Requirements:

Must possess the ability to read, write and speak the English language; must be involved in health care matters and projects with the community as needed; must have strong communication and presentation skills in both group and individual situations; must be patient, friendly, courteous and respectful to residents in any situation, including difficult ones; must be able to make independent decisions when necessary; must have the ability to follow nursing department guidelines as outlined by the company and other regulations governing nursing services in a long-term care facility; must be able to move frequently throughout the workday; must be able to lift 40 lbs floor to waist; lift 20 lbs waist to shoulder; lift and carry 40 lbs; and push/pull 40 lbs.

Experience:

Minimum one year nursing experience in a long-term care or other health care setting; geriatrics and infection preventionist experience preferred.

Working Conditions

- Attends and participates in continuing education programs (ex. Infection Prevention and Control)
- Works in department as well as throughout facility
- Subject to frequent interruptions
- Involved with patients, employees, visitors, government agencies/personnel, etc. under all conditions and circumstances
- Subject to hostile and emotionally upset patients, family members, etc.
- Works beyond normal working hours, on weekends and holidays, and in other positions temporarily as necessary
- Subject to falls, burns from equipment, odors, etc. throughout the workday
- Possible exposure to infectious waste, diseases, conditions, etc., including exposure to AIDS, the hepatitis B virus, and COVID-19

Specific Requirements

- Serves as designated staff responsible for monitoring Public Health Advisories from local, state, and federal agencies including the CDC
- Serves as the on-site IPC for COVID-19 prevention and response activities, in accordance with current CDC recommendations
- Maintains a current knowledge of infection control trends, methodologies, and employee health practices
- Performs work within the scope of his/her license
- Must possess the ability to make independent decisions when circumstances warrant such action
- Must be knowledgeable of Infection Prevention and Control practices and procedures as well as the laws, regulations, and guidelines governing nursing functions in the post-acute care facility
- Must have the ability to implement and interpret the programs, goals, objectives, policies, and procedures of the Infection Prevention and Control Program
- Must perform proficiently in all applicable competency areas
- Maintains professional working relationships with all employees, vendors, etc.
- Maintains confidentiality of all proprietary and/or confidential information
- Must understand and follow company policies including harassment and compliance procedures
- Displays integrity and professionalism by adhering to Clear Choice Health Care *Code of Conduct* and completes mandatory Code of Conduct and other appropriate compliance training

Essential Functions

- Must be able to plan, develop, organize, implement, and evaluate facility-wide systems for the prevention, identification, investigation and control of infections of residents, staff, and visitors
- Must be able to plan, develop, organize, implement, and evaluate a high quality infection prevention and control program (IPCP) to prevent, recognize, and control the onset and spread of infection to the extent possible
- Must be able to serve as the educational resource for ensuring the facility is able to properly educate; residents, families, associates, consultants, contractors, and volunteers on information regarding: COVID-19, infectious diseases, outbreaks, and infection control practices the facility uses to mitigate the spread of infection
- Must be able to monitor usage and burn rate of personal protective equipment (PPEs)
- Must be able to regularly review CDC and State Health websites for Infection Control Guidance for Healthcare Professionals for current information and ensure associates and residents are updated when guidance changes
- Must be able to complete on-going monitoring of HAI's (Healthcare Acquired Infections) and CAI's (Community Acquired Infections) including antibiotic use, micro report, line listings, and trending of infections
- Must be able to serve as a QAPI Committee member, with the responsibility of reporting on infection prevention and control elements
- Must be able to serve as the PPE coach and complete employee training and competencies related to appropriate PPE use
- Must be able to serve as a resource for all departments, employees, and licensed independent practitioners on infection prevention and control matters
- Must be able to conduct outbreak tracking, symptom monitoring, investigation, and reporting in accordance with local health and state agency as required by law
- Must be able to initiate follow-up on staff/resident exposures to communicable diseases
- Must be able to coordinate the development, review, and revision of the Annual Infection Prevention and Control Plan
- Must be able to participate in short- and long-range planning for the Infection Prevention and Control Program
- Must be able to serve as clinical lead in the facility in the implementation and support of the Antibiotic Stewardship program
- Must be able to participate in the ongoing review of facility assessment to ensure identification of Infection Control resources necessary to care for its residents competently during both day to day operations and emergencies
- Must be able to ensure reporting is completed in NHSN in accordance with F885

- Must be able to serve as the clinical lead for Employee Health, Vaccinations, Safer Sharps, and Post Exposure Coordination
- Must be able to participate in regulatory surveys to ensure employees in all departments are being monitored and provide assistance in following appropriate IPC standard
- Must exhibit excellent customer service and a positive attitude towards patients
- Must be able to assist in the evacuation of patients
- Must demonstrate dependable, regular attendance
- Must be able to concentrate and use reasoning skills and good judgment
- Must be able to communicate and function productively within an interdisciplinary team
- Must be able to sit, stand, bend, lift, push, pull, stoop, walk, reach, and move intermittently during working hours
- Must be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language
- Must be able to lift 35 lbs floor to waist, lift 35 lbs waist to shoulder, lift and carry 35 lbs, and push/pull 35 lbs

Receipt and Acknowledgment

I have received a copy of the job description and understand that it does not imply nor create a promise of employment, nor an employment contract of any kind, and that my employment is at-will.

I acknowledge and understand that the job description provides a general summary of the position in which I am employed, that the contents of this job description are job requirements and, at this time, I know of no limitations which would prevent me from performing these functions with or without accommodation. I further understand that it is my responsibility to inform my supervisor at any time that I am unable to perform these functions.

I acknowledge and understand the job duties, tasks, work hours and work requirements may be changed at any time.

I acknowledge and understand that acceptable job performance includes completion of the job responsibilities, a positive attitude and compliance with the guidelines, procedures, rules and regulations.

I have read and understand this job description.

Employee Signature

Date