

Home Health Line Tool

Survey examples: Infection prevention

Real-world citations can help you identify trouble spots in your own survey preparedness. Below, you'll see the regulations and survey guidance for infection prevention, as well as recent findings from surveyors.

G682 [§484.70(a)]

The agency must follow accepted standards of practice, including the use of standard precautions, to prevent the transmission of infections and communicable diseases.

Survey Guidance

Federal and state agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state departments of health and national professional organizations have all developed infection prevention and control standards of practice. Examples of national organizations that promulgate nationally recognized infection and communicable disease control guidelines and/or recommendations include: the CDC, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA). An agency should identify the source of the standards it selects and be capable of explaining why those standards were chosen for incorporation into the agency's infection prevention and control program.

Standard precautions must be used to prevent transmission of infectious agents. "Standard precautions" are a group of infection practices that apply to all patients regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status at the time health care is delivered. These practices protect health care personnel and prevent health care

personnel or the environment from transmitting infections to patients.

For example, the following six core practices are based on the CDC's "Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings — Recommendations of The Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee, which is periodically updated. These are a core set of infection prevention and control practices that are recommended in all health care settings, regardless of the type of health care provided.

1. Hand hygiene
2. Environmental cleaning and disinfection
3. Injection and medication safety
4. Appropriate use of personal protective equipment
5. Minimizing potential exposures
6. Preprocessing of reusable medical equipment between each patient and when soiled

Survey findings

- ✗ While struggling to obtain a blood specimen from a patient for testing, the nurse stated that she needed to get more supplies from her car and went to her car while wearing gloves. She returned a short time later with more supplies. After a fourth unsuccessful attempt, the nurse stated that she would notify the physician and grabbed her tablet out of the canvas bag to document while wearing gloves, then placed the tablet back into the canvas bag, removed the gloves and cleaned her hands.
- ✗ Staff cleaned the wound with wound cleanser and gauze then removed gloves. They failed to perform hand hygiene after removing gloves. Staff then donned clean gloves, measured the wound, obtained clean wound care supplies, performed wound care, then returned the unused wound care supplies to the area where the clean wound care supplies were stored. They removed the gloves and without performing hand hygiene initialed and dated the wound dressing, measured the patient's ankles, obtained cleaned equipment used during the visit and placed the clean equipment in the agency bag which contaminated the clean equipment.
- ✗ After a shower, the patient told an aide that he usually shaves twice a week and would like to have a shave. The aide was observed turning on the electric shaver and started shaving the patient's facial hair without gloves. After shaving, the aide opened the head of the shaver and rinsed the shaver blades without gloves. During an interview, the agency administrator stated the expectation was for staff to wear gloves during shaving due to the potential of nicks that could lead to exposure to blood-borne pathogens.
- ✗ Therapist was observed in the bathroom washing their hands. After washing their hands, the therapist turned off the faucet with their clean hands and placed their hands in their jacket pockets. The therapist then gathered supplies from their bag and placed them on a clean barrier on the patient's bed. They did not dry their hands with a paper towel, nor did they use a paper towel to turn off the dirty faucet. The therapist also failed to perform hand hygiene after turning off the faucet and placing their hands in their jacket pockets before handling clean equipment.
- ✗ The nurse's gloves were never changed when going from wound to wound. He used a disinfectant wipe to cleanse gloves between three wounds. The surveyors observed the nurse use the same wipe to cleanse gloves throughout the wound care. When wound care was completed the nurse used the same wipe to cleanse his gloves and help the patient dress. The surveyors observed the nurse clean his equipment using a wipe that he previously used. Then he cleansed his tablet with the same wipe that he used to cleanse his gloves. The nurse used the same pair of gloves during the entire visit.