



New Jersey Department of Health Infection Control Assessment and Response Team: Procedure

PURPOSE: The New Jersey Department of Health's, Communicable Disease Service (CDS) received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of a nationwide program to reduce healthcare associated infections (HAIs). With this cooperative agreement, CDS established the Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) team to assist health care facilities (HCFs) in reducing the number of HAIs by assessing their infection prevention programs, providing educational resources, and sharing best practices for infection prevention and control by nationally recognized resources.

GOALS: The ICAR team will assess a variety of patient care settings throughout the state. To assist facilities, the ICAR team will:

- Provide infection prevention assessment tools and resources
- Establish and strengthen relationships with external partner organizations
- Detect infection prevention gaps through on-site interviews and observations
- Bolster outbreak response and reporting preparedness

PROCESS:

1. Identification of participating facilities

- The ICAR team will perform assessments on a voluntary basis. HCFs will be scheduled based on team availability and priority settings. Assessments will be available to most HCFs.
- ICAR will also contact HCFs based on National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) HAI data, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ratings, Health Facility Survey & Field Operations referrals, and public health concerns, when appropriate.

2. Pre-assessment contact

- The ICAR team will coordinate the assessment to accommodate the HCF.
- An invitation to participate in the assessment will be extended to the appropriate local health department, regional epidemiologist, CDS, and HCF staff.
- Appropriate resources and tools will be provided to the HCF and assessment team.

3. ICAR Assessment

- The assessment will take no more than one day
- The following activities will be completed by the end of the assessment day:
 - Facilitated dialogue to review and complete the assessment tool
 - Observations of infection prevention practices
 - Provide post assessment feedback and educational resources

4. Post-assessment follow-up

- The facility will receive a summary report of the assessment findings approximately four to six weeks following the visit, if requested.
- The ICAR team is available to you as a resource following the site assessment. Contact the team to ask questions, address concerns, and find updated infection prevention resources and guidance.

Facilities interested in assessing their infection prevention programs and partnering to enhance patient safety can contact the ICAR team at CDS.ICAR@doh.nj.gov or at 609-826-5964. Please visit <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/hai.shtml> for additional information.