Infection Prevention Audit Tool Development

The purpose of an infection prevention program is to provide an environment that protects patients, staff and visitors, as well as the community at large, from acquiring or transmitting healthcare-associated infections and communicable diseases. An effective infection prevention program requires a multidisciplinary approach (e.g., nursing and medical staff, environmental services, contracted staff or services, and volunteers) to identify opportunities for improvement to prevent infections.

What is auditing?
Auditing is the direct observation or monitoring of adherence to job-specific activities. Auditing creates an opportunity to provide feedback to staff on their performance and allows for further education to reinforce and clarify key infection prevention concepts. Audits should target key steps outlined in infection prevention policies and procedures (e.g., hand hygiene, indwelling devices, injection safety). When developing an audit tool, remember to:

- Collaborate with key partners and departments involved in the audit process (e.g., Infection Prevention, Staff Development/Education, and Quality Improvement).
- Identify feedback mechanisms and data display locations (e.g., staff or committee meetings, posters, intranet, newsletters).
- Ensure audit tools align with all facility communication, programs, and regulatory requirements (e.g., quality initiatives, staff education, policies and procedures).
- Review availability of similar audit tools; it may be easiest to adapt existing resources.
- Establish Infection Prevention Champions to engage staff.

Design considerations:
A well-designed audit tool allows for a streamlined collection of data. Collecting data for action allows for targeted performance improvement efforts, with the end goal of enhanced patient safety and positive outcomes. When designing an audit tool consider the following:

- Brief rationale for auditing (1-2 sentences)
- Clear and concise language
- Definition of the audit activity
- Content size to one page, front and back
- Instructions for recording minimum number of observations, observer name, date of completion
- Submission instructions for completed tools
- Rate calculation data and display locations

Tip: Refer to CDC’s Plain Language Materials & Resources when developing and testing audit tools

Resources:
Below are resources which may provide templates for the development and implementation of infection prevention related audit tools.
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data Gathering and Summary Reports</td>
<td><a href="http://ipcobservationtools.site.apic.org/data-gathering-and-summary-reports/">http://ipcobservationtools.site.apic.org/data-gathering-and-summary-reports/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grid-Example Quick Observation Tools Summary</td>
<td><a href="http://ipcobservationtools.site.apic.org/files/2018/05/Grid-Example.xlsx">http://ipcobservationtools.site.apic.org/files/2018/05/Grid-Example.xlsx</a></td>
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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<tr>
<th>Quick Observation Tools (QUOTs) for Infection Prevention</th>
<th><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/tools/quot.html#anchor_1549306152">https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/tools/quot.html#anchor_1549306152</a></th>
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References: