

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 activities¹. 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.² 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 Champions² 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:

Tip: Refer to CDC's [Plain Language Materials & Resources](#)³ when developing and testing audit tools

- ✓ 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

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	
Environmental Rounds Worksheet for Infection Prevention	https://apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/Academy/ASC_101_resources/Assessment_Checklist/Environment_Checklist.doc
Data Gathering and Summary Reports	https://ipobservationtools.org/data-gathering-and-summary-reports/
Grid-Example Quick Observation Tools Summary	https://ipobservationtools.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Data-Tabulation-Blank.xlsx
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	
Quick Observation Tools (QUOTs) for Infection Prevention	https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/tools/quots.html#anchor_1549306152
CDC Environmental Checklist for Monitoring Terminal Cleaning	https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/toolkits/Environmental-Cleaning-Checklist10-28-2010.doc

References:

- ¹The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, October 15). Infection Control Assessment Tools. Retrieved April 11, 2020, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html>
- ²The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017, August 28). Infection Prevention Champions. Retrieved April 11, 2020, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/tap/preventionchampions.html>
- ³The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019 October, 17). Plain Language Materials & Resources. Retrieved April 11, 2020, from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/developmaterials/plainlanguage.html>