

### Infection Prevention in the Outpatient / Ambulatory Setting

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Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (SPICE)

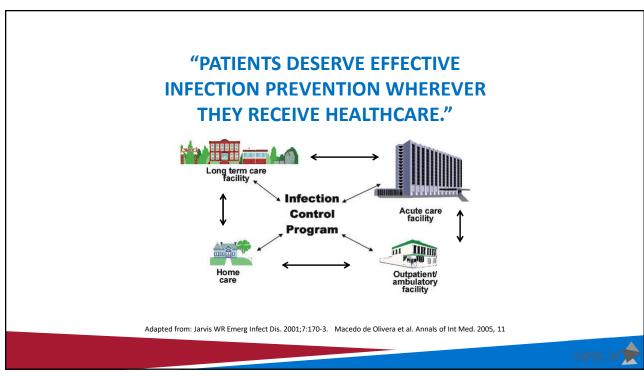
https://spice.unc.edu/ https://spice.unc.edu/ask-spice/

# • Nothing to disclose

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Review the need for a focus on Infection Prevention in the outpatient and ambulatory care setting
- Describe infection prevention issues specific to the outpatient / ambulatory setting
- Describe potential issues that are looked for related to instrument reprocessing when performed in the outpatient / ambulatory setting





### **Ambulatory Care Use and Physician Office Visits (U.S.)**

- National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2018
  - 860.4 million physician office visits
- Interactive Summary Health Statistics for Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2019-2020
- Percent of adults who had a visit with a doctor or other health care professional in the past year: 83.4% (2020)
- Interactive Summary Health Statistics for Children: National Health Interview Survey, 2019-2020
  - Percent of children who had a visit with a doctor or other health care professional in the past year: 94.0% (2020)

Physician characteristic	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)	Number of visits per 100 persons per year <sup>1-3</sup> (standard error of rate)	
All visits	860,386 (37,935)	100.0	267.1 (11.8)	
Professional identity				
Doctor of medicine	803,404 (37,174)	93.4 (0.9)	249.4 (11.5)	
Doctor of osteopathy	56,982 (7,561) 6.6 (0.9)		17.7 (2.3)	
Specialty type <sup>4</sup>				
Primary care	440,155 (31,474)	51.2 (2.3)	136.6 (9.8)	
Medical specialty	216,262 (19,037)	25.1 (2.2)	67.1 (5.9)	
Surgical specialty	203,969 (21,600)	23.7 (2.3)	63.3 (6.7)	
Metropolitan status				
MSA <sup>5</sup>	764,804 (37,461)	88.9 (2.4)	272.7 (13.4)	
Non-MSA	95,582 (21,946)	11.1 (2.4)	229.4 (52.7)	

Department of Infection Prevention | UNC Medical Center





# OUTBREAKS AND PATIENT NOTIFICATIONS IN OUTPATIENT SETTINGS:2010-2014

- These events occurred in a variety of outpatient settings including primary care clinics, pediatric offices, cosmetic surgery centers, pain remediation clinics, imaging facilities, cancer (oncology) clinics, dental clinics, and health fairs.
- This is not an exhaustive list, but it serves as a reminder of the serious consequences that can result when healthcare personnel fail to follow basic principles of infection control.
- https://www.cdc.gov/hai/settings/outpatient/outbreaks-patient-notifications.html

Setting	Year Investigated	Pathogen(s)	infection(s)	Patient Notification Performed (# notified)	Infection Control Breaches
Surgical Center	2014	N/A*	N/A*	Yes (1,100)	Reuse of syringes to access medication vials used for ×1 patient*     Fallure to properly reprocess reusable medical equipment.
Orthopedic Clinic [2]	2013	Staphylococcus aureus	Septic Arthritis	No	1) Complex preparation/compounding of injection materials involved extensive manipulations in the procedure room, with opportunities for contamination
Plastic Surgery Center 3	2013	N/A*	N/A*	Yes (415)	Reuse of syringes to access medication vials that may have been used for >1 patient?
Pain Management Clinic [4]	2013	Hepatitis B Virus	Hepatitis	Yes 534)	Multiple procedural and infection control breaches were identified
Oral Surgery Clinic [5]	2013	Hepacitis C Virus	Hepatitis	Yes (5,810)	Mishandling of injectable medications including reuse or single-dose vials of propofol 2) improper reprocessing of dental instruments
Plastic Surgery Center [6]	2013	Nontuberculous mycobacteria. Other	Surgical Site Infection	No	Off-label use of lubricating gel directly on sterile tissues     Reuse of single-use breast implants as sizers
Dental Clinics	2013	N/A*	N/A*	Yes (100)	Suspected tampering with injectable controlled substances by a healthcare provider
Hematology Oncology Clinic [4]	2012	Hepatitis C Virus	Hepatitis	Yes (>300)	Specific lapses in infection control not identified at the time of the investigation
Cosmetic Surgery Facilities (§)	2012	Group A Streptococcus	Necrotizing Fascitis	No	1) Failure to wear surgical masks and gowns consistently 2) Visibly dirty equipment 3) No logs of autoclave use, maintenance, or performance

# 10A NCAC 41A .0206 INFECTION PREVENTION – HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

### Specific to ambulatory settings

- Enacted in 1992
- North Carolina Administrative Code Rule 10A NCAC 41A .0206 ("Rule .0206") establishes requirements for infection prevention in health care settings. According the Rule .0206, every health care organization that performs invasive procedures is required to do the following:
  - 1. Implement a written infection control policy;
  - 2. Ensure that health care workers in its employ or who have staff privileges are trained in the principles of infection control and the practices required by the policy;
  - 3. Require and monitor compliance with the policy; and
  - 4. Update the policy as needed to prevent transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other bloodborne pathogens.





10A NCAC 41A.0206 Infection Prevention-**Healthcare Settings** 

10A NCAC 41A .0206 INFECTION PREVENTION – HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

(a) The following definitions apply throughout this Rule:

(1) "Health care organization" means a hospital; clinic; physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, or chiropractic office; home care agency; musting home; local health department; community health center; mental health facility, hospice; ambulatory surgical facility; ugent care center; emergency room; Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agency; pharmacies where a health practitioner offers clinical services; or any other organization that provides clinical care.

(2) "Invasive procedure" means entry into tissues, cavities, or organs or repair of traumatic injuries. The term includes the use of needles to puncture skin, vaginal and cesarean deliveries, surgery, and dental procedures during which bleeding occurs or the potential for bleeding exists.

(3) "Non-contiguous" means not physically connected.

(b) In order to prevent transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other bloodborne pathogens each health care organization shall ensure that health care workers in its employ or who have staff privileges are trained in the principles of infection control and the practices required by the policy, require and monitor compliance with the policy, and update the policy as needed to prevent transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other bloodborne pathogens. The health care organization shall designate one on-site staff member for each noncontiguous facility to direct these activities. The designated staff member in each health care facility shall complete a course in infection control approved by the Department. The Department shall approve a course that addresses;

(2) Epidemiologic principles of infectious disease;

(3) Sterilization, disinfection, and samintion;

(4) Universal blood and body fluid precautions;

(5) Safe injection practices;

(6) Engineering controls to reduce the risk of sharp injuries;

(7) Engineering controls to reduce the risk of sharp injuries;

(8) Techniqu

History Note:

Authority G.S. 130A-144; 130A-145; 130A-147; Eff. October 1, 1992; Amended Eff. January 1, 2010; December 1, 2003; July 1, 1994; January 4, 1994.



### **DEFINITIONS**

- "Healthcare organization" means:
  - Hospital
  - Clinic
  - Physician Practice
  - Dentist
  - Podiatrist
  - Optometrist, or
  - Chiropractic office
- Home care agency
- Nursing Home
- Local health department
- Community health center
- Mental health facility
- Hospice

- Ambulatory surgical facility
- Urgent care center
- Emergency room
- Emergency medical service (EMS) agency
- Pharmacies where a health practitioner offers clinical services

Or any other organization that provides clinical care



## **DEFINITIONS**

- "Invasive procedure" means entry into tissues, cavities or organs or repair of traumatic injuries. This includes:
  - <u>Use of needles to puncture</u> <u>skin</u>
  - Vaginal and cesarean deliveries
  - Surgery
  - Dental procedures during which bleeding occurs or the potential for bleeding exists











### **Key Recommendations – Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings**

### Administrative

- Develop and maintain infection prevention and occupational health programs.
- Develop written infection prevention policies and procedures appropriate for the services provided by the facility which are based on evidence-based guidelines, regulations and standards.
- Assure availability of sufficient and appropriate supplies necessary for adherence to Standard Precautions.
- Assure at least one individual with training in infection prevention is employed by or regularly available (by contract) to manage the facility's infection prevention program.

### **Education and Training**

- Provide job- or task- specific infection prevention education and training to all HCP.
  - Includes agency, contract and volunteer staff
- Focus on principles of Healthcare Personnel (HCP) safety and patient safety.
- Provided on hire and repeated annually and when policies and procedures are updated/revised.
- Competencies should be documented post each training.



### **Infection control policy**

- Infection control policy must include and address the following components necessary to prevent transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other bloodborne pathogens:
  - Disinfection and Sterilization
  - Maintenance and microbiologic monitoring of equipment
  - Sanitation of rooms and equipment
    - Cleaning procedures, agents used and schedules
  - Accessibility of infection control devices and supplies
    - Personal protective equipment (PPE), safety sharps, etc.
  - A post-exposure follow-up program.

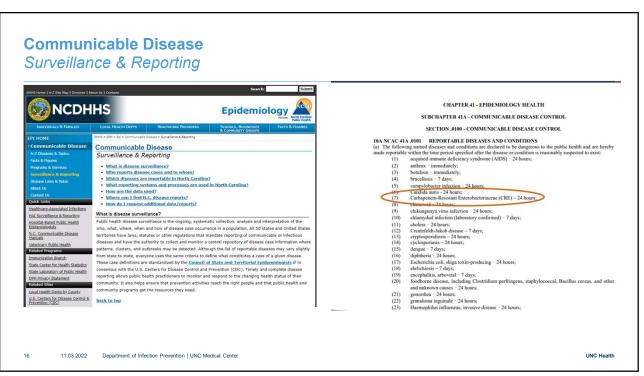




### Infection control policies and procedures

- Facility infection prevention policies (hand hygiene, PPE, aseptic technique, etc.)
- Area specific policies
- Post exposure plan
- Reporting possible communicable disease exposures to Health Department
- Attendance at Outpatient Infection Prevention (.0206) SPICE course if clinic meets criteria





# **Designated Staff member**

- Designated staff member must complete a State approved course in infection prevention
  - Course curriculum developed by SPICE
  - SPICE has oversight of course
  - On the job training is not sufficient and "Train the Trainer" concept cannot be used
  - Upon completion of course will receive a certificate of completion
  - Serves as documentation of compliance with rule .0206





# **Minimum Expectations**

### The Basics

- · Follow standard precautions with all patients
- Perform appropriate hand hygiene
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) when indicated
- Follow transmission-based precautions when indicated
- · Follow respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette principles
- Ensure appropriate patient placement
- Properly handle, clean and disinfect patient care equipment, instruments and supplies
- · Clean and disinfect the environment appropriately
- Handle textiles and linen carefully
- · Follow safe injection practices
- Ensure healthcare worker safety through proper handling of needles and other sharps





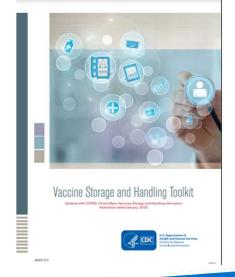
https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/standard-precautions.html



# **North Carolina Immunization Program**

The VFC (Vaccines For Children) program:

- Provides federally purchased vaccine, for eligible children, at no charge to public and private providers
- Automatically covers vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), established by resolution and approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- · Very specific vaccine storage requirements





# EDUCATION, TRAINING, COMPETENCIES & AUDITS

- Upon hire
- Annually
- New equipment, procedure, or policy change



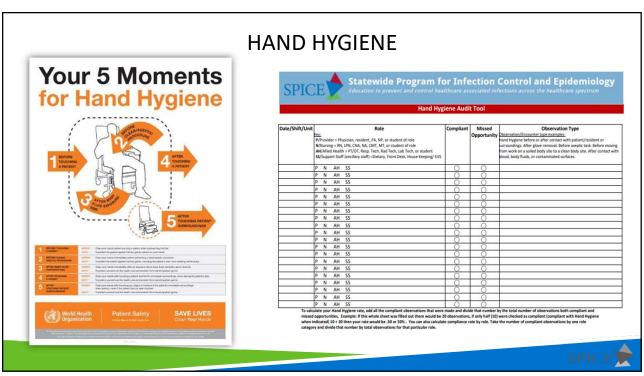
### WHAT WE ASSESS FOR – GENERAL INFECTION PREVENTION ROUNDS

- Infection control policies and procedures
  - Surveillance and disease reporting if applicable
- Hand hygiene
- Standard and transmission-based precautions
- Linen
- Storage of supplies
- Refrigerators and ice machines
- Medication management
- Safe injection practices
- General environment
- Cleaning/disinfection, HLD & sterilization









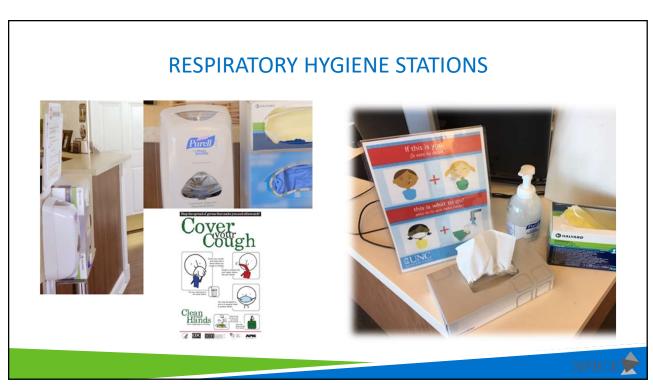
# STANDARD AND TRANSMISSION-BASED PRECAUTIONS



- Is PPE available?
- Do staff choose/use the correct PPE?
- Does the clinic have an Airborne Infection Isolation Room?







# LINEN: KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ► Linen and other textiles
  - ▶ Use of appropriate PPE during handling and sorting of contaminated linen
  - ► Contaminated laundry bagged at point of use
  - ▶ Do not shake or agitate linens
  - ▶ Use standard precautions when handling all contaminated laundry







### **STORAGE: KEY PRINCIPLES TO REMEMBER**

- Supplies and equipment that come in direct OR indirect contact with residents present a risk of infection transmission in healthcare settings.
- For this reason, a very important element in infection control and prevention is separation of clean and dirty.
- Items and equipment must be stored in a manner to prevent contamination.





### **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STORAGE OF SUPPLIES**

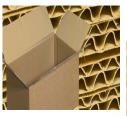
- ► Clean and sterile patient care supplies should be stored in areas with limited traffic.
- ▶ If possible, clean/sterile supplies are clearly separated from dirty items by having them in a separate room such as a "clean utility room."
- ▶ If clean and dirty items *must* be stored in the same room or location, there must be a clear separation of clean and dirty.





## STORAGE: GENERAL GUIDELINES

- ► Clinical care equipment and/or supplies should not be stored on the floor.
- ▶ Primary shipping containers/boxes should never be stored in any clinical care area.
- ► Items should be removed from shipping cartons and can be stored on shelves, racks, cabinets and/or washable containers









### PREVENT WATER CONTAMINATION

- ► Equipment and supplies should be stored at least 3 feet from the sink unless a barrier is in place, such as a plexiglass splashguard.
- ▶ Items or equipment should not be stored under the sink or exposed water pipes. Exceptions may be cleaning supplies or trash bags based on your facility policy.
- ▶ Storage in windowsills should be avoided.
- ▶ Packages should be inspected prior to use for any evidence of contamination (tears, moisture, soil).



SPICE

# PREVENT INADVERTENT CONTAMINATION



Supplies should be stored in a manner that reduces the potential for contamination.

### This means:

- Once taken out of original packaging, they should be placed in a covered container
- Supplies needed for a procedure should be opened immediately prior to use
- Supplies with an expiration date should be rotated and placed so that staff will use in a timely manner







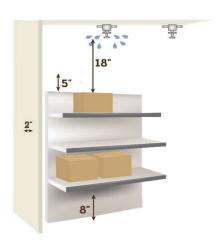
# **Storage Shelf Considerations**

Assure items are protected from dust, moisture, and temperature and humidity extremes.

Guidelines for spacing between items and the surrounding environment should be followed:

### Store at least:

- 8 inches from floor
- 5 inches from ceiling unless near sprinkler head [18 inches from sprinkler]
- 2 inches from outside walls





# STORAGE CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-CRITICAL EQUIPMENT

- ► All non-critical reusable equipment should be cleaned, disinfected when visibly soiled and on a routine basis, that is after each use
- ▶ All non-critical reusable equipment should be stored between use in a manner to prevent inadvertent contamination by the environment or healthcare personnel hands
- ► Whenever possible blood glucose meters should be assigned to an individual resident and not shared
- ► Meters dedicated to individual residents should be stored in the resident's room if feasible.
- ▶ If not feasible to store in the room, disinfect after use, label with the resident's name and store in a manner to prevent contamination and inadvertent use on another resident.









# REFRIGERATORS, COOLERS & ICE MACHINES • Monitored & recorded • Patient/staff designation • Scoops covered • Clean & maintained • Process for coolers

# MEDICATION MANAGEMENT / SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES

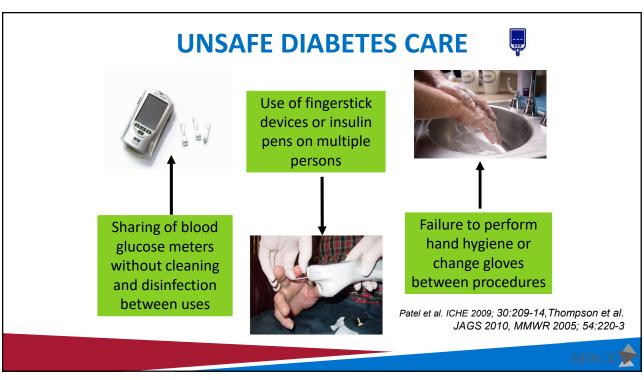
- Do staff use clean or sterile techniques and maintain clean, uncluttered and functionally separate areas for med prep?
- Are needles and syringes used only one time?
- Are sharps containers placed to be readily accessible to staff and close to area where sharps are used?
- Are safety devices available?
- Are sharps containers secured to prevent tipping and spilling?
- · Observe injection practices.









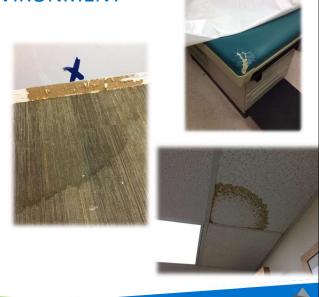


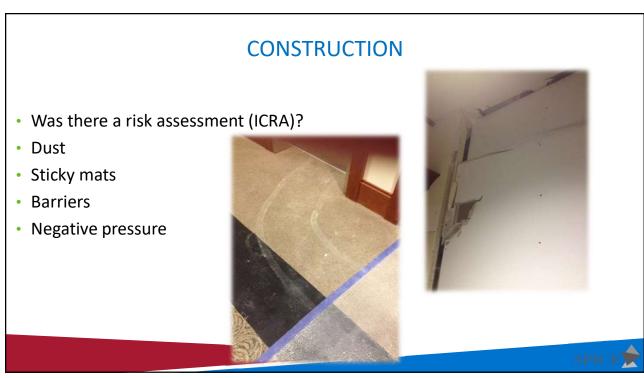




# **GENERAL ENVIRONMENT**

- Are exam tables, procedure chairs intact and not torn?
- Are areas free of dust, dirt, clutter?
- Are countertops without chips or missing laminate?
- Are walls free from repair needs?
- Are there any leaks?







# Spaulding Classification of Surfaces: Critical – Objects which enter normally sterile tissue or the vascular system and require sterilization Semi-critical – Objects that contact mucous membranes or non-intact skin and require high-level disinfection, which kills all but high-levels of bacterial spores Non-critical – Objects that contact intact skin but not mucous membranes, and require low-level disinfection

# **CLEANING & DISINFECTING**

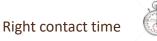
# **SELECT, MIX, AND USE DISINFECTANTS CORRECTLY**

Right product



Right preparation and dilution

Right application method



Wear appropriate PPE (gloves, gown, mask, eye protection)





PICE









### INFECTION PREVENTION TRACERS - WHAT DO WE LOOK AT?

### Infection Prevention High-Level Disinfection Tracer

- · Negative pressure for endoscopy reprocessing rooms
- PPE
- · Leak testing
- Enzymatic correct concentration / temperature / soak time
- · Expiration dates primary and secondary containers
- · Secondary labels as indicated
- Expiration dates for test strips open and unopened
- · Quality control process initial and prior to each time
- Minimal effective temperature per IFU
- · HLD chemical soak time

- Rinsing post HLD soak
- ???Are any single-use items being disinfected
- Orientation / competency
- · Availability of manufacturer's instructions for use
- Storage of HLD items
- Process to identify and recall inadequately high-level disinfected instruments
- HLD equipment Scope Buddy / Acu-sinQ maintained/used per IFU
- Transporting endoscopes to and from storage cabinet





# INFECTION PREVENTION TRACERS - WHAT DO WE LOOK AT?

Infection Prevention HLD using a Trophon

- First step removing visible soil
- PPE
- Disinfectant cartridge load / expiration date
- · Chemical indicators expiration date
- · Process to identify Trophon HLD failure
- Storage of HLD items
- Orientation / competency
- Availability of manufacturer's instructions for use
- Trophon maintained / used per IFU







## INFECTION PREVENTION TRACERS - WHAT DO WE LOOK AT?

### Infection Prevention Sterilization Tracer

- Process for cleaning instruments and devices prior to sterilization
- PPE
- Enzymatic detergents correct concentration / temperature / soak time
- Brushes
- Ultrasonic
- Rinsing and drying
- · Wrapping and packaging
- · Chemical indicators
- · Biological indicators / logs

- Bowie-dick tests
- · Labeling packs / pouches
- Logs
- Sterilizer maintenance
- · Reprocessing failure
- Storage or sterilized items
- Orientation / competency











### **REFERENCES**

- Standard Precautions for All Patient Care https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/standard-precautions.html
- Statewide Program for Infection Control & Epidemiology https://spice.unc.edu/
- Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings CDC <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/hai/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html">https://www.cdc.gov/hai/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html</a>
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