

8. Excellence in Infection Control Practices

Assessment criteria for Excellence in Infection Control Practices

1. Hospital infection control programme

- a) Established and documented infection prevention and control programme is in place which aims at preventing and reducing healthcare associated infection.
- b) There is dedicated infection control team (including an infection control officer and infection control nurse) for implementation of infection control programme
- c) Multidisciplinary infection control committee is constituted to oversee implementation and monitoring of infection control programme
- d) High risk areas in the hospital are identified
- e) Education, information and communication programme for infection prevention and control activities is in place for the community
- f) Community outbreak of diseases is effectively managed through effective communication (internal and external) and defined roles and responsibilities of staff

2. Resources for infection prevention and control activities

- a) Adequate resources like infrastructure (hand washing facilities, isolation room), man and material (PPEs and disinfectants) are available
- b) Separate budget is demarcated for infection prevention and control activities
- c) Monitoring of adherence to standard precautions infection prevention and control practices, hand hygiene guidelines, transmission based precautions, safe injection and infusion practices is in place

3. Implementation of Infection prevention and control programme in support services

- a) Engineering controls to prevent infection are in place with respect to design of patient rooms, bed spacing, Operating rooms, air quality, water supply sources, system of water supply, quality check of potable water, cleaning of air handling units, ducts and filters
- b) There is adherence to housekeeping procedures, laundry and linen management, kitchen sanitation and food handling issues
- c) Biomedical waste is stored in accordance with statutory provisions and handed over to the authorized vendor for transport to the site of treatment and disposal.
- d) Biomedical waste is handled appropriately and all categories of staff are trained accordingly
- e) Established sterilization activities with validation tests for sterilization are carried out by the organization

4. Implementation of Infection prevention and control programme in clinical areas

- a) High risk areas of the hospital are identified and surveillance activities are in place in these areas
- b) There is adherence to cleaning, disinfection and sterilization practices
- c) There is adherence to hand hygiene guidelines across all patient care areas
- d) There is adherence to transmission based precautions and safe injection and infusion practices
- e) Established and documented policy on antibiotic usage and its implementation is in place
- f) Monitoring of rational use of antibiotic is in place
- g) Antibiotic stewardship programme is in place. The programme should include management commitment, accountability, drug expertise, action, tracking, reporting and education

- h) Actions are taken to prevent healthcare associated infections in patients viz catheter associated urinary tract infections, ventilator associated complications/ventilator associated pneumonia, catheter linked blood stream infections and surgical site infections
- i) Actions are taken to prevent healthcare associated infections in staff i.e. implementation of occupational health and safety practices, immunization policy on pre and post exposure prophylaxis, and prevention of blood and body fluid exposure in staff

5. Education and Training

- a) Staff (Doctors, nurses, paramedics and housekeeping) are trained on infection prevention and control activities during induction and periodically after joining, show evidence
- b) Hospital has adequate number of nurses trained on infection prevention and control deployed at each nursing station.

6. Surveillance activities

- a) Monitoring of adherence to standard precautions infection prevention and control practices, hand hygiene guidelines, transmission based precautions, safe injection and infusion practices is in place
- b) Surveillance activities are carried out at high risk areas, capturing of multidrug resistant organisms, and monitoring the effectiveness of housekeeping activities
- c) Early identification and protocol for handling of outbreak of diseases in place
- d) Analysis of surveillance data and appropriate corrective and preventive action taken by the infection control committee