

Board Report

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IPAC- Infection Prevention & Control

Staffing:

Our Infection Prevention & Control (IPAC) team consists of 1 full time Registered Nurse, 1 Part time Medical Lab Technologist and 1 casual Registered Nurse. We have coverage on both sites on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and single coverage on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Both FT & PT staff are CIC Certified (Certification of Infection Control).

IPAC Roles and Responsibilities:

The role of IPAC is to review and assess all patients who are at risk or have infectious diseases. IPAC completes daily surveillance on all admitted patients, monitoring Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI) as well as community acquired infections coming into the hospital. This surveillance is important to quickly identify and address infectious trends and clusters.

IPAC also completes monthly reporting and audits for different organisms and preventative measures affecting patient care. They report monthly MRSA swabbing compliance, nosocomial (hospital) infections, and surgical site infections.

On a daily basis, IPAC completes rounds on the units to review isolation signs and answer any IPAC questions the staff may have. IPAC also reviews all isolations on a daily basis with the Patient Flow Coordinators to ensure patients are appropriately isolated, only required beds are blocked, and only appropriate patients are cohorted if necessary. IPAC joins the daily Bed Management call and collaborates with our regional partners through the Southeast IPAC group. IPAC also reviews all construction projects, ensuring appropriate safety measures are in place if patient impact is expected.

Monthly Hand Hygiene Compliance:

Hand hygiene is one of the critical points of compliance for all who walk through PSFDH doors. IPAC uses a validated observation tool called HandyAudit to observe the 4 moments of hand hygiene. Our compliance rate is reported on a monthly basis to Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) and yearly to the Ministry of Health. Our 2024-2025 Hand Hygiene compliance was 92% for moment 4, which is the moment the staff member leaves the patient's room; however, we strive for 100% compliance.

COVID-19:

In 2024-2025 Fiscal year, there were 124 patients infected with COVID-19, 21 were nosocomial, or acquired within the hospital. There were 2 COVID outbreaks in July 2024 (MSSF & Perth 3rd floor) both contained with rigid Outbreak Management and in collaboration with Leeds, Grenville, and Lanark District Health Unit.

Policies and Procedures & Education:

All IPAC policies and procedures are reviewed and revised on a yearly basis. IPAC has completed the review of all the IPAC Policies and Procedures for Accreditation, and they are also consulted on other department policies, such as Occupational Health and Environmental Services. IPAC also reviewed patient brochures and updated the IPAC Reference Manual. IPAC is involved with monthly staff and student orientation, as well as staff and nursing education on a yearly basis.

IPAC Activities

Addition of the 4 Moments of Hand Hygiene Cards:

These cards have been posted beside each hand sanitizer throughout the hospital in all inpatient and outpatient areas. They serve as an added visual reminder for both staff and visitors. IPAC continuously monitors and replaces these cards as needed.

Hand Hygiene Tournaments:

The IPAC team conducted two Hand Hygiene Tournaments this year with the goal of working together to raise awareness about the importance of hand hygiene and to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our staff. Due to feasibility constraints, the tournaments were held between two units rather than hospital wide.

- April 22 – May 2: In celebration of *Just Clean Your Hands Day*, held between MSP and MSSF
- October 20 – 24: In celebration of *National Infection Control Week*, held between ED Smiths Falls (SF) and ED Perth

Recognition and rewards were provided to staff members who demonstrated excellent hand hygiene practices. A champion at each site was voted for by their peers, and the unit with the strongest overall performance was awarded a gift voucher for a pizza party.

Impact of a Lumeo/new EMR on IPAC Practices

Lumeo has improved the infection surveillance by providing real-time access to clinical information & microbiology results. Positive test results (MRSA, c-diff, respiratory viruses etc.) are automatically sent to the IPAC worklist enabling early identification of healthcare-associated infections and potential outbreaks. This supports timely intervention by the IPAC team.

The new EMR also displays the patient isolation status, which assists frontline staff in implementing appropriate infection control measures.