



Infection Prevention and Control


Core competencies

Ana Paula Coutinho Rehse
Technical Officer – Infection Prevention & Control
Infectious Hazard Management Programme
WHO Health Emergencies Programme
WHO European Region





Once we learn to ride a bike, we never forget.

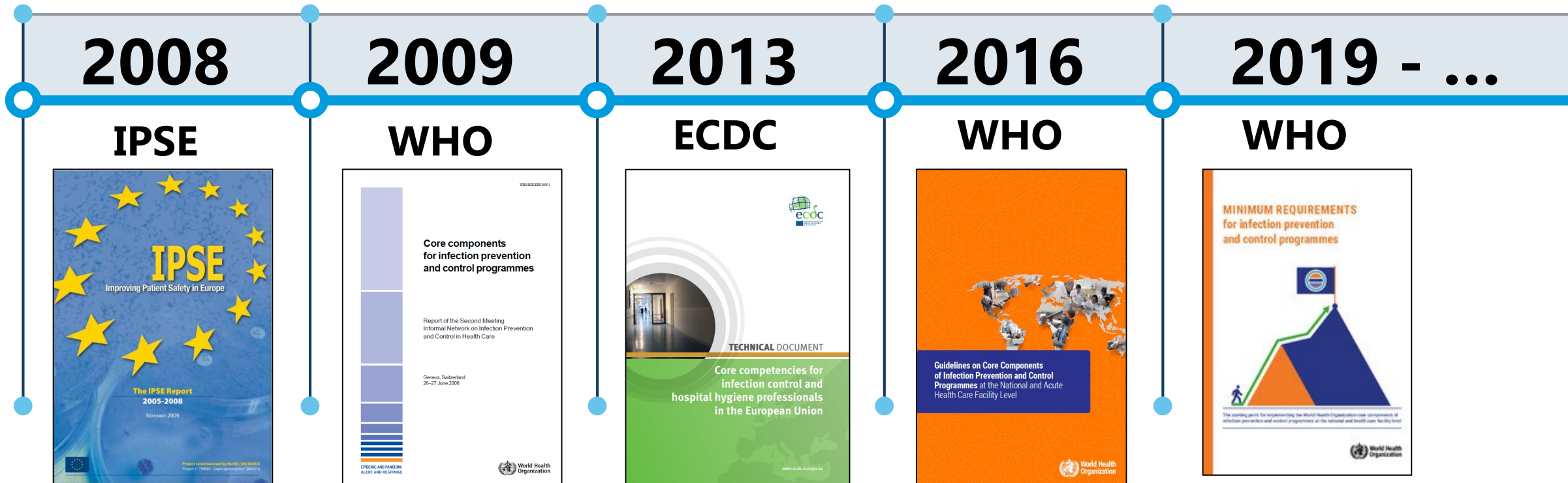


Health workers generally view infection prevention and control as a foundational aspect of their profession, encompassing patient safety, personal safety, professional responsibility, community health, regulatory compliance, education, resource utilization, and team collaboration.

By prioritizing infection prevention and control, health workers contribute to creating a safer and healthier healthcare environment for everyone involved.

Infection Prevention and Control

Key milestones



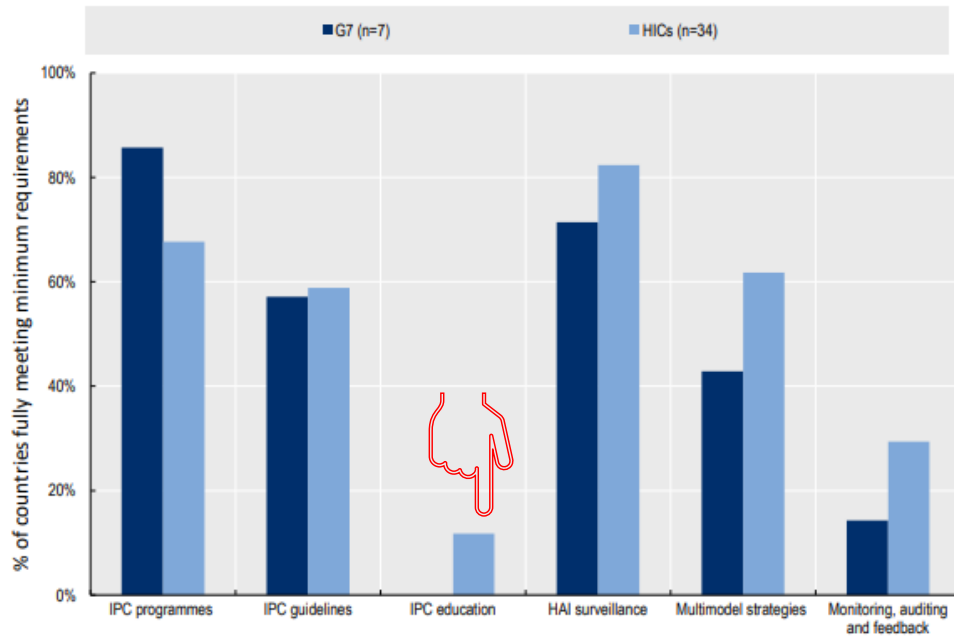
Infection Prevention and Control

Key milestones (cont.)



IPC training implementation

Figure 8. Proportion of countries meeting all national minimum requirements by IPC core component among G7 countries (n = 7) compared to all HICs (n = 34)* (33)

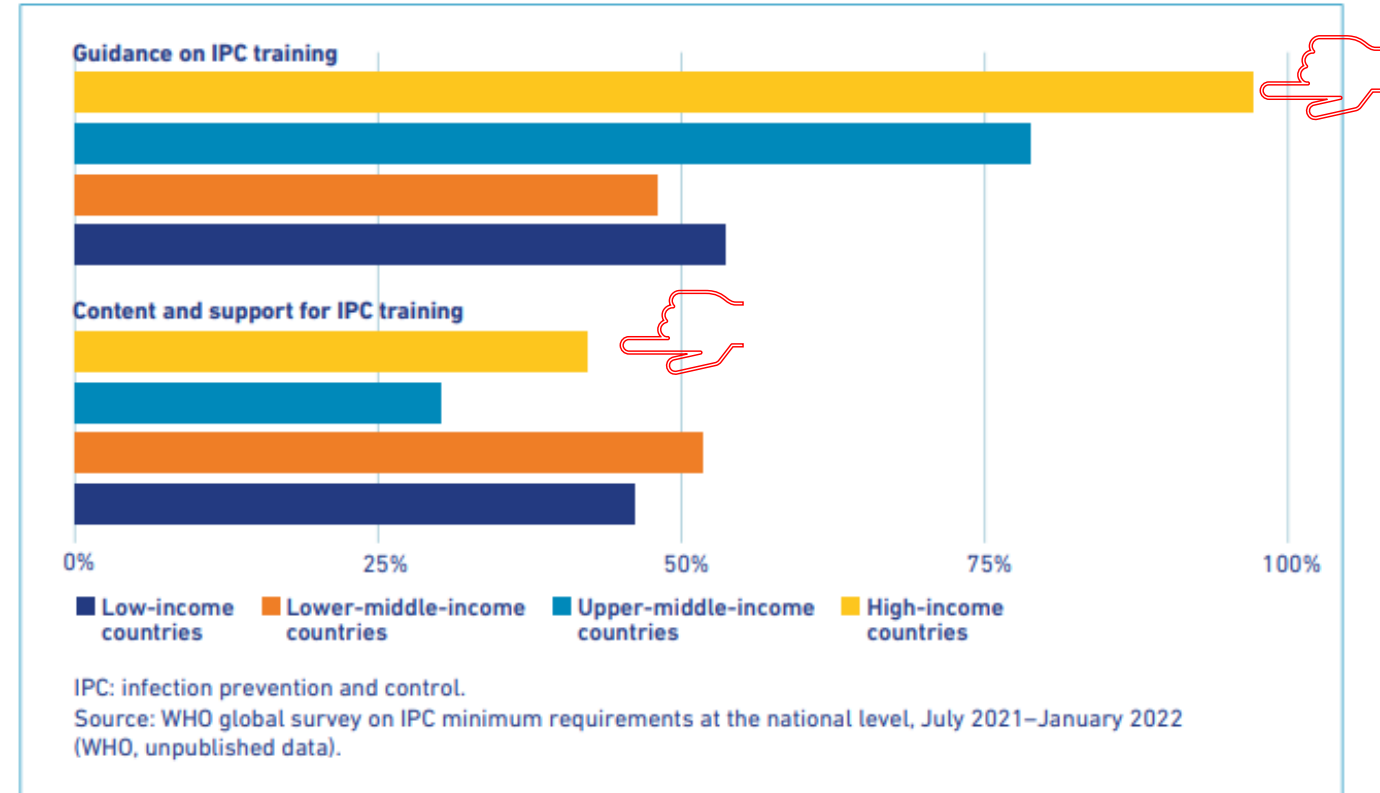


IPC: infection prevention and control; HAI: health care-associated infection.

*According to World Bank income classification

Source: WHO unpublished data, based on the WHO 2021-22 global survey on the minimum requirements for national IPC programmes.^{1, 38}

Fig. 3.9. Percentage of countries (N=106) with key IPC minimum requirements for training and education in place, by income level



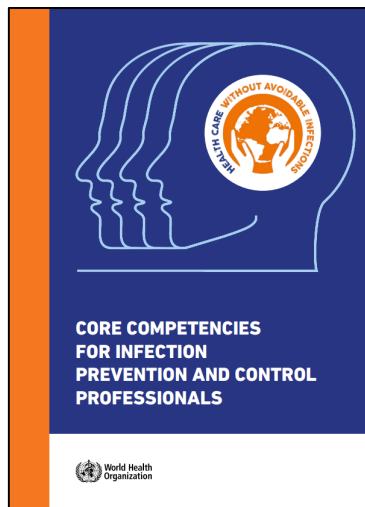
IPC: infection prevention and control.

Source: WHO global survey on IPC minimum requirements at the national level, July 2021–January 2022 (WHO, unpublished data).

Global report on infection prevention and control, WHO


Addressing the burden of infections and antimicrobial resistance associated with health care Focus on G7 countries, OECD-WHO report

Infection prevention and control/hospital hygiene professionals



“health care professional (medical doctor, nurse or other health-related professional) who has completed a certified postgraduate IPC training course, or a nationally or internationally recognized postgraduate course on IPC, or another core discipline including IPC as a core part of the curriculum as well as IPC practical and clinical training”

Core competencies for infection prevention and control professionals. WHO



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13.11.2012
COM(2012) 658 final

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL


on the basis of Member States' reports on the implementation of the Council Recommendation (2009/C 151/01) on patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections

Member States should

“Ensure adequate numbers of specialised infection control staff with time set aside for this task in hospitals and other healthcare institutions”.

and

“Improve the training of specialised infection control staff and better align qualifications between Member States.”.



PATIENT SAFETY AND HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL
June 2014

The Europe-wide point prevalence survey – highlighted the need to ensure

“...adequate numbers of specialised infection control staff in hospitals and other healthcare institutions”.

Report from the Commission to the Council on the basis of Member States' reports on the implementation of the Council Recommendation (2009/C 151/01) on patient safety, including the prevention and control of health care-associated infections (2013/2022(INI))

Global Infection Prevention and Control Strategy - IPC training and education

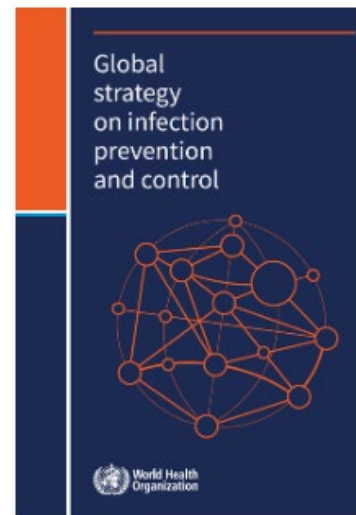
Global strategy on infection prevention and control. WHO

IPC integration and coordination

- a. Consistently **coordinate IPC with other health priorities and programmes and vice-versa**, including those on AMR (in particular, antimicrobial stewardship and monitoring and AMR surveillance, including through the One Health approach), patient safety and quality of care, WASH, occupational health and safety, health emergencies, biosafety and biosecurity and other programmes (including immunization, HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis, and maternal, newborn and child health); and
- b. **integrate IPC measures into patient pathways and clinical care** delivery at the point of care across health services **at all health system levels**, including primary care, with adaptation for fragile and low-resource settings.

IPC knowledge of health and care workers and career pathways for IPC professionals

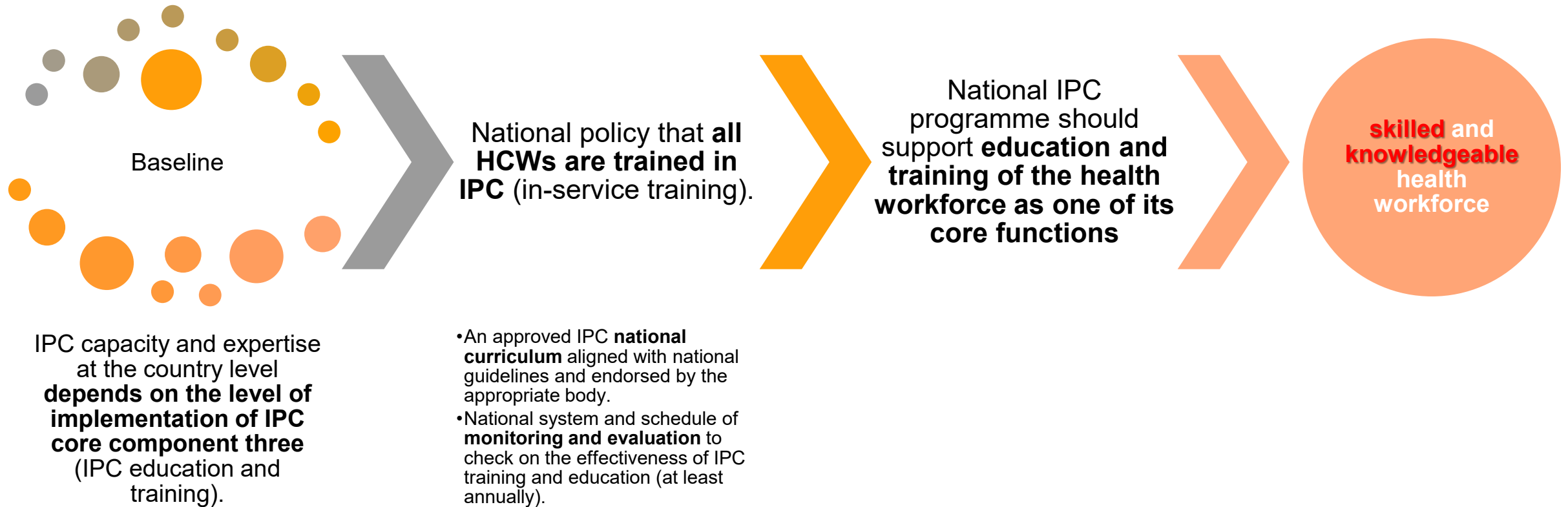
- a. Develop **IPC curricula** (for pre- and postgraduate and in-service training) for health and care workers and link to other associated areas (for example, water safety and occupational health and safety in health care facilities);
- b. provide **IPC education across the entire health education system** (pre- and postgraduate training);
- c. ensure **in-service training for all health and care workers** on IPC standards and practices, and specific training for IPC professionals, according to WHO-recommended competencies;
- d. ensure **a recognized career pathway for IPC professionals** and job opportunities empowering their role; and
- e. develop approaches and resources for **the education and orientation of patients and families**.



All right



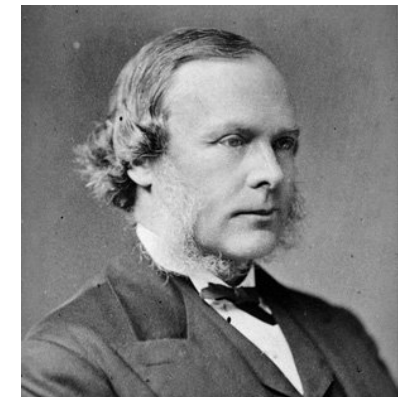
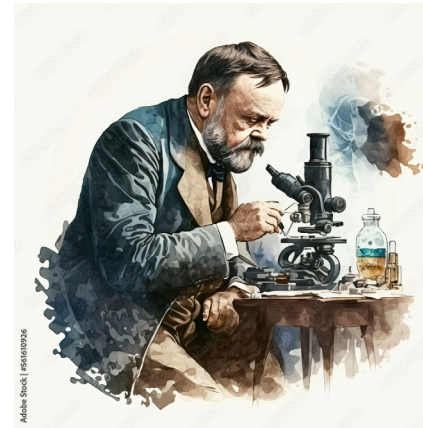
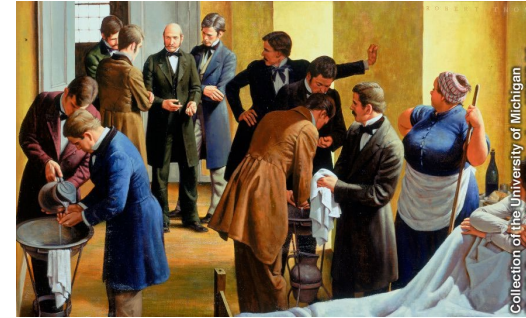
Infection Prevention and Control Education and Training



The good old times & Infection prevention and control

Controlling infection has long been recognized as key to **good health**. Over the past century, doctors have discovered **how to isolate and identify microbes** of human interest, along with their reservoirs and major **modes of transmission**. Tracing the **origin** of these pathogens and **interrupting spread** between environmental, non-human and human reservoirs underpins the basis of infection prevention and control practiced in today's hospitals.

Resistance to change IPC behaviors and practices has been attributed to widespread beliefs that antibiotics could solve problems related to infections, the **lack of strength of the evidence** supporting interventions to prevent health care-associated infections, the **lack of ownership** that healthcare staff feel for the problem and the perceived level of intractability of the problem.



Infection Prevention and Control Core competencies areas and domains

Areas	Domains
Leadership and infection prevention and control programme management	Infection prevention and control programme management and leadership Built environment in health care facilities
Microbiology and surveillance	Basic microbiology Antimicrobial resistance prevention Health care-associated infection surveillance
Infection prevention and control in clinical practice	Standard precautions Transmission-based precautions Decontamination and reprocessing of medical devices and equipment Catheter-associated bloodstream infection prevention Catheter-associated urinary tract infection prevention Surgical site infection prevention Prevention of health care-associated pneumonia Health care-associated outbreak prevention and management
Education	Infection prevention and control education and training
Quality, patient safety and occupational health	Quality and patient safety Occupational health

Area	Domain
Area 1. Programme management	Elaborating and advocating an infection control programme
	Management of an infection control programme, work plan and projects
Area 2. Quality improvement	Contributing to quality management
	Contributing to risk management
	Performing audits of professional practices and evaluating performance
	Infection control training of employees
Area 3. Surveillance and investigation of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)	Contributing to research
	Designing a surveillance system
	Managing (implementation, follow up, evaluation) a surveillance system
Area 4. Infection control activities	Identifying, investigating and managing outbreaks
	Elaborating infection control interventions
	Implementing infection control healthcare procedures
	Contributing to reducing antimicrobial resistance
	Advising appropriate laboratory testing and use of laboratory data
	Decontamination and sterilisation of medical devices
Controlling environmental sources of infections	

Core competencies for infection control and hospital hygiene professionals in the European Union. ECDC



Thank you!

Ms Ana Paula Coutinho Rehse
Technical Officer – Infection Prevention & Control
Infectious Hazard Management Programme
WHO Health Emergencies Programme
WHO Regional Office for Europe
Phone: +45 45 33 67 10
e-mail: coutinhoa@who.int

Terminology

Training or education

Education (1967)

- Acquisition of knowledge as a result of instruction in a formal course of study.
- Used for education, training programs, and courses in various fields and disciplines, and for training groups of persons.

Teaching

- A formal and organized process of transmitting knowledge to a person or group.

Inservice Training (1976)

- On the job training programs for personnel carried out within an institution or agency. It includes orientation programs.

Overtraining Syndrome (2023)

- An accumulation of training and/or non-training stress resulting in short-term decrement in performance capacity with or without related physiological and psychological signs and symptoms of maladaptation in which restoration of performance capacity may take from several weeks to several months

Staff Development (1986)

- The process by which the employer promotes staff performance and efficiency consistent with management goals and objectives.

Cited resources

- ✓ Report from the Commission to the Council on the basis of Member States' reports on the implementation of the Council Recommendation (2009/C 151/01) on patient safety, including the prevention and control of health care-associated infections (2013/2022(INI)), Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-7-2013-0320_EN.pdf
- ✓ Core competencies for infection control and hospital hygiene professionals in the European Union. ECDC
<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/media/en/publications/Publications/infection-control-core-competencies.pdf>
- ✓ Guidelines on core components of infection prevention and control programmes at the national and acute health care facility level. WHO <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/251730>
- ✓ Minimum requirements for infection prevention and control programmes. WHO <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/330080>
- ✓ Core competencies for infection prevention and control professionals. WHO <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/335821>
- ✓ Global report on infection prevention and control. WHO <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/354489>
- ✓ Addressing the burden of infections and antimicrobial resistance associated with health care Focus on G7 countries
<https://www.oecd.org/health/Addressing-burden-of-infections-and-AMR-associated-with-health-care.pdf>
- ✓ Global strategy on infection prevention and control. WHO <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/global-strategy-on-infection-prevention-and-control>