



IPC Sameeksha*

Highlights

- WHO guidance on regulations for transport of infectious substances
- Operational framework for WASH, waste and electricity in the health sector
- Quality improvement initiative to reduce neonatal sepsis
- Plastic wound protectors reduce incidence of surgical site infections
- Infection prevention and control of *Candida auris*
- Use of contact tracing technologies for IPC in nosocomial settings

Publications from scientific journals

Quality improvement initiative 'S-A-F-H' to reduce healthcare-associated neonatal sepsis in a tertiary neonatal care unit

- Pune hospital develops, implements and evaluates the S-A-F-H protocol – consisting of scrub the hub/aseptic non-touch technique/five moments of hand hygiene/hand hygiene – as an intervention to reduce healthcare associated infections (HAIs) in the NICU.
- Achieves the goal of reducing HAIs among neonates by 50% with improvements in compliance rates to IPC practices among healthcare workers (HCWs).

BMJ Open Quality | Quality Improvement Programme | 17 June 2024 | [Online link](#)

Plastic wound protector vs surgical gauze for surgical site infection reduction in open GI surgery

- Demonstrates that a dual-ring plastic wound protector reduces incidence of surgical site infections compared to conventional surgical gauze in open abdominal surgery.

JAMA Surgery | Original investigation | 24 April 2024 | [Online link](#)

A prospective study on the outcome after mass closure of post-laparotomy wound dehiscence in a tertiary care hospital, Tamil Nadu, India

- Cross-sectional study finds significant wound dehiscence in patients undergoing emergency laparotomy.
- Emphasizes strict postoperative care to improve wound healing and reduce the risk of infection.

Cureus | Original article | 4 May 2024 | [Online link](#)

The laboratory investigation, management, and infection prevention and control of *Candida auris*: a narrative review to inform the 2024 national guidance update in England

- Reviews *Candida auris*, a critical pathogen on WHO's fungal priority pathogen list, which is increasing in global prevalence.
- Characteristics of *C. auris*, such as tolerating high salt concentrations, require specific IPC measures, including outbreak preparedness and response, rapid contact tracing and isolation or cohorting of patients and staff, strict hand hygiene/other IPC measures, dedicated or single-use equipment, and appropriate disinfection.

Journal of Medical Microbiology | Review article | 21 May 2024 | [Online link](#)

The use of contact tracing technologies for infection prevention and control purposes in nosocomial settings: a systematic literature review

- Highlights usefulness of radio frequency identification (RFID) systems and Bluetooth sensors for locating HCWs within healthcare facilities while safeguarding their privacy.
- Proposes the need for more robust evidence on contact tracing technologies to reduce HAIs.

Infectious Disease Reports | Systematic review | 7 June 2024 | [Online link](#)

Airborne infection control measures among government and private health facilities in a hilly district of North India

- Cross-sectional study of 53 health care facilities in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh finds suboptimal implementation of the Guidelines for Airborne Infection Control in Health Care Settings (2010).
- Government health facilities were better than private sector at implementing the guidelines.

Indian Journal of Community Health | Original article | 30 April 2024 | [Online link](#)

Comparative analysis of sampling and detection methods for fungal contamination on common healthcare environment surface materials

- Comparative experimental design finds sponge sampling and qPCR detection performs better than flocked swabs and replicate organism detection and counting (RODAC) plates.
- Calls for further research and validation in real-world conditions to develop practical threshold values for effective outbreak prevention and response strategies.

Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology | Concise communication | 21 May 2024 | [Online link](#)

Differential diagnosis, prevention measures, and therapeutic interventions for enhanced monkeypox (Mpox) care

- Review key aspects of monkeypox (Mpox) from a nursing perspective.
- Calls for further research and embracing innovative practices to enhance nursing care in Mpox for positive patient outcomes, reducing transmission risks and promoting overall well-being.

Cureus | Review article | 20 May 2024 | [Online link](#)

Zoonotic disease risk perception and infection control practices amongst veterinarians in Kerala, India

- Cross-sectional survey in Kerala finds about one third of veterinarians experience zoonotic infections, predominantly fungal skin infections.
- Calls for the need for IPC trainings and IPC policy for veterinarians.

Preventive Medicine Research & Reviews | Brief research article | 12 June 2024 | [Online link](#)

Guidelines

Guidance on regulations for the transport of infectious substances, 2023–2024

- Practical biosafety guidance to facilitate compliance with applicable international regulations for transporting infectious substances by all modes of transport, replacing the 2021 guidelines.
- Includes recommendations defining material for transport, classifying infectious substances, preparing packaging requirements, labelling, documenting shipments and cleaning-up accidents.

WHO | Guideline | 13 June 2024 | [Online link](#)

Universal water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in all health care facilities to achieve quality care

- Evidence-based framework provides an operational framework to implement the 2023 United Nations General Assembly resolution on WASH, waste and electricity in healthcare facilities.
- Target audience includes policy makers/health leaders, programme managers at the global and national levels, technical experts and civil society.

WHO | Technical document | 22 June 2024 | [Online link](#)

Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015-2023: special focus on menstrual health

- User friendly report tracks WASH metrics in schools, and highlights WASH needs among adolescent girls.

WHO | Technical document | 27 May 2024 | [Online link](#)

Quotable quote

Primum non nocere

(Latin) **first, do no harm**

– highlights the importance of IPC in modern medicine

– Hippocratic Oath

**Sameeksha* is a Hindi word, meaning review. This compilation of recent IPC resources includes a brief summary of relevant publications from scientific journals, guidelines, and training/IEC resources, along with a link to the online resource. The primary target audience includes clinical and public health IPC professionals from both public and private sector in India. Kindly note: inclusion of publications/resources in this review does not imply an endorsement by WHO.