



Sameeksha* – Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

Key highlights

- WHO assessment tools on IPC minimum requirements for tertiary and secondary health care facilities
- Access to PPE for HCWs during outbreaks avert infections and deaths among HCWs
- Effective healthcare communication in hospitals to optimizing IPC and antimicrobial stewardship
- Nurses' preferences for interventions to improve infection prevention and control
- Online course for training the trainers in environmental cleaning of health care facilities
- Prevention and control of microbiological hazards in fresh fruits and vegetables

Publications from scientific journals

Estimating the return on investment of selected infection prevention and control interventions in healthcare settings for preparing against novel respiratory viruses: modelling the experience from SARS-CoV-2 among health workers

- Demonstrates that access to personal protective equipment (PPE) for 80% of HCWs would have averted infections and reduced hospitalizations and deaths among HCWs, especially in South-East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Mediterranean.
- Scaling up IPC interventions, with modest economic costs, need to be prioritized in mitigating future outbreaks.

eClinicalMedicine | Research article | 4 January 2024 | [Online link](#)

Laboratory-acquired infections and pathogen escapes worldwide between 2000 and 2021: a scoping review

- Based on publicly available information, identifies the top laboratory-acquired infections (LAIs) – *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhimurium and Enteritidis, vaccinia virus, *Brucella spp* and *Brucella melitensis*; and accidental pathogen escape from laboratory settings (APELS) – *Bacillus anthracis*, SARS-CoV, poliovirus.
- Reiterates the need for formal system of reporting global LAIs and APELS.

Lancet Microbe | Research article | 12 December 2023 | [Online link](#)

Optimizing infection control and antimicrobial stewardship bedside discussion: a scoping review of existing evidence on effective healthcare communication in hospitals

- Determines structured communication strategies, with input from multidisciplinary HCW teams, which can contribute to better infection-related outcomes among patients.
- Provides recommendations to optimize infection care discussions during ward rounds.

Clinical Microbiology & Infection | Review article | 13 December 2023 | [Online link](#)

Preventing healthcare-associated MRSA bacteremia: getting to the root of the problem

- Significant reduction in healthcare associated MRSA bacteremia in an endemic setting was attributed to a well-planned behaviour change intervention that was cost-neutral and locally adapted.
- Recommends evaluating interventions over a sufficient period to capture the lag time between intervention and outcomes.

Antimicrobial Stewardship & Healthcare Epidemiology | Research article | 22 December 2023 | [Online link](#)

Environmental detection and spreading of mpox in healthcare settings: a narrative review

- Outlines how the monkeypox (mpox) virus may increase risks of infection due to environmental contamination in healthcare settings, household surfaces and wastewater.
- Calls for targeted disinfectants effective for orthopoxviruses and investments in wastewater surveillance for mpox and other diseases.

Frontiers in Microbiology | Review article | 21 December 2023 | [Online link](#)

Nurses' preferences for interventions to improve infection prevention and control behaviors based on systems engineering initiative to patient safety model: a discrete choice experiment

- Result shows heterogeneity among nurses in the preferences of interventions for IPC behaviors.
- Majority of nurses preferred interventions that comprehensively improve person, organization, technology and tools, task, internal environment, and external environment factors in improving IPC.

BMC Nursing | Research | 10 January 2024 | [Online link](#)

Infection prevention and control practices in the pediatrics and child health department of Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital, Ethiopia

- Assesses IPC practices and associated factors in pediatrics and child health department using WHO's Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Framework (IPCAF), which show a "basic" sub-optimal level of practice.
- The assessment informs healthcare workers and decision-makers to identify areas for improvement in IPC practice at all levels.

Frontiers in Public Health | Original research article | 19 January 2024 | [Online link](#)

Guidelines

Assessment tool on infection prevention and control minimum requirements for tertiary health care facilities

- Provides a structured approach to assessing, planning, organizing and implementing a tertiary-level IPC programme in line with the WHO minimum requirements.
- Targets IPC professionals responsible for IPC at the tertiary care facility level.

WHO | Standards | 13 November 2023 | [Online link](#)

Assessment tool on infection prevention and control minimum requirements for secondary health care facilities

- Provides a structured approach to assessing, planning, organizing and implementing a secondary-level IPC programme in line with the WHO minimum requirements.
- Targets IPC professionals responsible for IPC at the secondary care facility level.

WHO | Standards | 13 November 2023 | [Online link](#)

Prevention and control of microbiological hazards in fresh fruits and vegetables: General principles

- Review and discuss relevant measures for control of microbiological hazards from primary production to point of sale in fresh, ready-to-eat (RTE), and minimally processed fruits and vegetables, including leafy vegetables.

FAO & WHO | Report | 29 December 2023 | [Online link](#)

Training / IEC resources

Learning to deliver training in IPC and environmental cleaning for health care facilities in low-and-middle-income countries

- This free, online course of approximately 1 hour aims to provide an overview of and strategies to implement the WHO training package on environmental cleaning of health care facilities.

WHO | Course | January 2024 | [Online link](#)

Quotable quote

*Eight strategic directions provide the overall guiding framework for country actions to implement the Global Strategy on IPC –
1) political commitment and policies, 2) active IPC programmes,
3) IPC integration and cooperation, 4) IPC knowledge of health and care workers and career pathways for IPC professionals, 5) data for action,
6) advocacy and communications, 7) research and development, and
8) collaboration and stakeholders' support*

– [Global strategy on infection prevention and control](#) 2023

**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. The intended target audience for this includes clinical and public health professionals interested in IPC at both public and private sector in India. Kindly note: inclusion of publications/resources in this review does not imply an endorsement by WHO.