RACF Infection Control Fact Sheet

Training Fact Sheet

Purpose

Infection Control—Aged Care Accreditation Standard 4.7.

This expected outcome requires that:

There is an effective infection control program. The focus of this outcome is on results.

To achieve this:

- Staff demonstrate infection control plans, procedures, practices and equipment are effective in identifying and containing infection.
- Data is collected about the effectiveness of the infection control program
- Staff practice is consistent with Australian Government infection control guidelines.
- There is a food safety program in place.

How do we ensure this?

- How does the home ensure identification and management of each care recipient’s specific infections? This includes assessment of care recipients’ individual needs including their susceptibility to infections and evaluation of management strategies.
- How does the home provide appropriate induction and ongoing training for staff about the principles and practices of infection control?

We also need to provide evidence:

- How does the home regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of its infection control program?
  
  For example, does the program include:
  
  - Infection surveillance which includes the collection and analysis of care recipient infection information
  - Monitoring and review of staff practices including in relation to the use of assessment tools, equipment, and methods of facilitating an effective infection control program
  - Identification of infection control issues
  - Auditing of the food safety program?

Actions:

- Implementation of improved practices, processes or precautions such as:
  
  - processes and facilities for hand hygiene and use of personal protective equipment
  - processes and facilities for the provision of health and personal care services
  - a food safety program
  - processes and facilities for cleaning, disinfecting equipment and laundry items
- pest control measures
- vaccination programs for care recipients and staff
- the containment of sharps, contaminated waste and blood spills

Consider:

- Is there a central point of responsibility for the infection control program?
- Does the home have contingency plans for an outbreak (such as pandemic influenza or epidemic gastroenteritis)?
- How does the home access information on current community outbreaks and on how to control the spread of specific infections?
- How does the home ensure the effectiveness of risk assessments to identify potential sources of infection/cross infection?
- How does the home ensure the effectiveness of prevention strategies to minimise the incidence of infection in all areas of the home including processes and facilities for the implementation of standard

How does this standard relate to other standards?

- It is expected that appropriate equipment and supplies are accessible for preventing and managing infection including in the event of an outbreak (1.7)
- Poor and inappropriate infection control practices may affect the provision of all health and personal care services to care recipients, for instance, in relation to the provision of skin care, continence management, or personal care tasks such as oral and dental care (Standard 2)
- Information on incidents and risks relating to infection control would be expected to inform the home’s processes for continuous improvement (4.1)
- The prevention and management of infections is one way homes ensure safe living and working environments (4.4 & 4.5)
- The provision of infection control processes in relation to food safety, cleaning processes and the handling of laundry (4.8)

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