

1088 Senior Infection Preventionist (IPC)

Overview

Title: Senior Infection Preventionist (IPC)	Commitment Level (1-4): 2
Reports To: Hospital Director	On Boarding Required (Y/N): No
Department: Hospital	Minimum Commitment: 10 months
Job Code: 1088	Typical Service Commitment: 10 months
Date Modified: 24 March 2025	Date Reviewed: 24 October 2024

Summary Description

The purpose of the Senior Infection Preventionist position is to support the Mercy Ships mission as well as restore, promote and maintain health in the people we serve. The Senior Infection Preventionist is responsible for acting as a liaison and resource person for Infection Control and will be responsible for the management of all Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) activities, under the guidance of the Infection Prevention and Control Committee (IPPC). Responsibilities include collecting, analyzing and providing infection data and trends to nursing staff and physicians. The Senior Infection Preventionist will serve in the role of educating medical and non-medical crew members about Infection Prevention and Control practices. Additional tasks include monitoring the ship environment to ensure safe practices of infection prevention according to hospital and ship policies. The IPC's program will use evidence-based practices and World Health Organization (WHO) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines as its foundation. May provide education and training for partner country participants, trainees, and students in Mercy Ships training programs while providing clinical care.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities (include but not limited to)

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily:

Essential Job Duties:

- Serves as a member of the Infection Prevention and Control Committee
- Contributes to organization-wide Infection Prevention and Control Program
- Serves as Team Leader of the IPC team, which consists of the Senior Infection Preventionist and the Infection Preventionist
- Responsible for orientation and training of new Infection Preventionists onboard
- Revises the IPC Plan annually
- Creates IPC goals for the current field service
- Prepares an annual written appraisal of the Infection Prevention and Control program at the end of the field service
- Completes TB risk assessment for current field service location
- Completes Annual Infection Control Risk Assessment for current field service location
- Completes an annual infection prevention assessment of the hospital and outpatient clinics
- Develops and regularly reviews all policies and procedures for infection control to maintain standards and practice compliance
- Provides routine and special education on infection control and safety-related topics as needed
- Performs inspection rounds in all areas of the hospital and outpatient clinics for compliance with IPC policies
- After coordination with the Mercy Ships Operations Director, will provide inspection rounds in the ship's galley, Café and housekeeping services
- Participates in assigned committees:
 - Member, Mercy Ships Hospital Review Board
 - Member, Mercy Ships Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Committee
 - Member, Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee
 - Member, Mercy Ships Safety Committee

Surveillance:

- Identify infection prevention and control risks through surveillance activities, including data collection and analysis as it pertains to patients, crew members, caregivers and families
- Create a monthly surveillance plan for the field service.
- Responsible for performing surveillance activities as directed by the IPCC in the hospital, outpatient clinics, Hope Center, Low Care Unit and off-site Dental Clinic
- Uses two types of surveillance: **process and outcome**
 - **Process surveillance:** review practices directly related to patient care in order to identify whether the practices comply with established IPC procedures and policies
 - **Outcome surveillance:** designed to identify and report evidence of an infection
- Develops interventions using guidelines from CDC, WHO and other relevant sources.
- Collect, record and analyze data, and liaise with members of the IPCC (and others as necessary) to identify opportunities to reduce the risk of transmission of infection
- Document observations related to the causes of infection and/or infection trends
- Implement measures to prevent the transmission of infectious agents and to reduce risks for device and procedure-related infections, and evaluate outcomes

Education:

- Serve as a knowledgeable and available resource on evidence-based infection control practices and policies to health care personnel, patients, visitors and general crew
- Assess and address learning needs of those served
- Plan and deliver educational programs for hospital crew members and day workers; examples include: proper hand hygiene, use of PPE, safe injection practices and infection updates
- The Senior Infection Preventionist will work in conjunction with the Ward and OR Team Leaders and the Ward and OR Educators to provide ongoing and "just in time training"
- Basic IPC education, such as proper hand hygiene for all ship crew, will be provided at the request of the Ship's Operations Director or Crew Physician
- May participate in Mercy Ships training programs, functioning as an educator/preceptor for local healthcare providers and students.

Qualifications (Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and Requirements)

The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required:

Mercy Ships Assignment:

- Supportive of Mercy Ships mission and vision, and committed to its core values
- Able to live in and contribute to community life, requiring stable and healthy interpersonal skills
- Understands and applies servant leadership, works collaboratively with integrity and demonstrates accountability

Time Management:

- Demonstrates ability to prioritize and utilize resources to complete assignments in a timely and efficient manner
- Balances IPC team's daily schedule to ensure adequate support and performance of duties
- Provides data and reports in a timely manner

Communication:

- Demonstrates knowledge of Mercy Ships organizational structure and lines of authority
- Refers projects/issues using the established chain of command
- Strong oral and written communications skills
- Fluent in English
- Uses communication methods effectively such as telephone, pagers, e-mail, memos, etc.
- Attends and participates in staff meetings

Leadership:

- Must be a self-starter
- Will serve as the Infection Prevention & Control subject matter expert for Mercy Ships
- Strong administrative & leadership skills
- Well-seasoned interpersonal skills with the ability to lead and motivate volunteers
- Detail-oriented skills required, with a desire to achieve organizational goals

Education:

- Knowledge of Hospital procedures, standards and equipment
- Knowledgeable with Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Excel and Word)
- Studies current IPC practices and trends through use of journals, the internet, national organizations and networking
- International Driver's License required (Purchase prior to travel if necessary)

Education and Experience

The requirements listed below are representative of the education and/or experience required:

Education:

- Bachelor's Degree in Nursing required (or international equivalent); Master's degree preferred
- Baccalaureate or Master's degree in Public Health, Epidemiology, Clinical Laboratory Science, Medical Technology or related field will be considered
- Certification in Infection Control and Epidemiology (CIC preferred) or working towards certification will be considered

Experience:

- Minimum of 5 years' clinical experience in hospital settings or disease surveillance experience in a public health setting

Training:

- Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC), training courses (Epi 101 and Epi 102) or equivalent
- Current BLS (Basic Life Support) for Healthcare Providers certification is required; ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) and PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) are optional

Licensure:

- Current unencumbered state or country license in Nursing or equivalent

Miscellaneous:

- Mercy Ships alumni preferred, but not required
- Experience with humanitarian responses or medical missions to underserved locations desired
- Commitments of 12 months or longer require successful completion of On Boarding program

Name	_____
Signature	_____
Date	_____