

Infection Preventionist

Roles and Responsibilities of the Infection Preventionist and the IDT Team



Patty Klinefelter, MBA, RN, ICP, BC

With more than 30 years of leadership experience that includes directorship roles in the healthcare system, hospital settings, and home health settings, Patty brings extensive experience to LW Consulting, Inc. She embraces industry advancement and innovation to transform home care delivery and believes that care technology strengthens caregiver-patient engagement, provides better insight for patients and families and improves health outcomes.

Career Background

Patty worked as a home health director to a six-hospital healthcare system, across two states, and delivered day-to-day operational leadership, planning, development and evaluation of home care services. She also collaborated with leadership to create; maintain, evaluate and improve clinical practice standards; and ensure consistent implementation and services coordination. Patty provided growth and development support aimed at maximizing opportunities to expand services to more clients.

Patty received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Penn State University and an MBA from Averett University. She is a licensed registered nurse with a multi-state Virginia License and holds a Home Health Nursing Certification from the Nurses Association.

Contact Information

pklinefelter@lw-consult.com



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Objectives

- Know the federal regulations related to infection control.
- Understand the role of the infection preventionist.
- State the consequences of noncompliance with the regulations.
- Describe the role of the interdisciplinary team.



Agenda

- Infection Control F-tags
- Who is the Infection Preventionist
- Infection Preventionist Roles and Responsibilities
- Antibiotic Stewardship
- Integrating ICP into QAPI
- Roles of the Interdisciplinary team
- Resources



F880 - INFECTION CONTROL – Skilled Nursing

- Safe, sanitary and comfortable environment
- Prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infection



Elements of an IPCP

- A system for preventing, identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases
- Written standards, policies, and procedures
- Recording incidents
- Linens
- Annual review



F-Tag 881 – Skilled Nursing Regulations

- Elements of infection control program :
 - An antibiotic stewardship program that includes antibiotic use protocols and a system to monitor antibiotic use
 - infections
 - unnecessary or inappropriate antibiotic use
 - monitor the use of antibiotics



F Tag 882 – Skilled Nursing Regulations

- Infection preventionist
- The IP must:
 - Professional training
 - Be qualified by education, training, experience or certification
 - Work at least part-time at the facility
 - Have completed specialized training
 - Participate in Quality assessment and assurance committee



What is the Infection Preventionist

- Educator
- Collaborator
- Liaison
- Communicator
- Advocate
- Critical Thinker
- Leader
- Mentor
- Subject Matter Expert
- Evaluator



Educator

- New hire orientation
- Annual education and competency assessments
- Policy and Procedures
- Family and Resident Education
- Community Education
- Best Practices
- Infection control plan
- Evaluates effectiveness of education



Collaborator

- Relationships are key
- Build teams and consensus
- Engage internal partners
 - Environmental Services
 - Facilities Management
 - Lab Services
 - Pharmacy
 - Providers



Liaison

- Local and State Public Health Departments
- CDC
- Surveyors
- Community Hospitals
- Build Bridges to fill in the gaps



Communicator

- Constant communication of the facility plan and purpose
- Strong written and verbal skills
- Tailor messaging to reach different audiences
- Creates dialogue and engages facility staff
- Feedback is essential for adherence and progress
- Policy and Procedures



Advocate

- Advocate ALWAYS for Resident and Staff safety
- Advocate ALWAYS for quality care
- Advocate for the Infection Prevention Program



Critical Thinker

- Outbreak investigations
- Clinical data analysis
- Seeing the BIG picture
- Rounding surveillance
- Translate scientific evidence into practice
- Shift priorities and resources when new problems arise



Leader

- Inspire
- Motivate
- Lead by example
- Coach
- Promote a culture of safety
- Challenge assumptions and consider alternative perspectives
- Infection control committee



Mentor

- Staff that are interested in learning more about infection control
- Staff that are interested in being part of the Infection control team/committee
- Students



Subject Matter Expert

- Healthcare Acquired Infections
- Emergency Preparedness
- Regulatory Compliance
- Surveillance
- Infection Control Plan



Evaluator

- Surveillance
- Data Collection
- Analyze and Interpretate data
- Outbreak investigation
- Risk Assessments
- Staff adherence



Primary Role of Infection Preventionist

- Detect, Control, and Prevent Infections
 - By directing the day-to-day functions of the facility's infection and prevention control program



Duties and Responsibilities of Infection Preventionist

Plan, develop organize implement, evaluate, coordinate, and direct facility's infection control program in accordance with current rules, regulations, and guidelines that govern nursing care facilities and other senior living residences



Duties and Responsibilities of Infection Preventionist

cont'd.

- Compliance with CDC, OSHA
- Develop, revise, review and interpret policies and procedure
- Collect data



Duties and Responsibilities of Infection Preventionist

cont'd.

- Participate (QAPI)
- Oversee Immunization program
- Oversee/Conduct the facility surveillance
- Make recommendations



Duties and Responsibilities of Infection Preventionist

cont'd.

- Coordinate the annual infection control risk assessment
- Interpret infection control policies and procedures
- Make written and oral reports/recommendations
- Assist all departments



Duties and Responsibilities of Infection Preventionist

cont'd.

- Monitor infection control practices and procedures
- Make rounds to nursing units
- Visit isolated resident



Duties and Responsibilities of Infection Preventionist

cont'd.

- Developing and implementing guidelines
- Ensure that all personnel follow established procedures
- Evaluate the annual plan
- Ensure the completion of all infection control



Duties and Responsibilities of Infection Preventionist

cont'd.

- Provide education and training
- Oversee the infection reporting
- Assist the Director of Laundry services



Duties and Responsibilities of Infection Preventionist

cont'd.

- Assist the Director of Environmental Services
- Participate in facility surveys
- Collaborate with facility and community providers



Antibiotic Stewardship and IP

- F881 – Skilled Nursing regulations

The facility must establish an infection prevention and control program that must include an antibiotic stewardship program that includes antibiotic use protocols and a systems to monitor antibiotic use.



Antibiotic Stewardship and IP

- Develop and implement protocols
- Reduce the risk of adverse event
- Develop, promote, and implement a facility-wide system



Core Elements of an Antibiotic Stewardship Program

- Leadership Commitment
- Accountability
- Drug Expertise
- Action
- Tracking
- Reporting
- Education



Core Elements Antibiotic Stewardship cont'd.

Leadership Commitment

- Owners, facility administrators, regional leaders
- Write letter to staff, residents, families in support
- Make sure that AS is written into the job descriptions
- Support training and education
- Celebrate improvement



Core Elements Antibiotic Stewardship cont'd.

- Accountability
 - Working Together with
- IP
- Physician
- Pharmacy
- Nurses/DON



Core Elements Antibiotic Stewardship cont'd.

- Drug Expertise
 - Partner with antibiotic stewardship programs
 - Providers
 - Pharmacists



Core Elements Antibiotic Stewardship cont'd.

- Action
 - Implement policies
 - Improve assessments
 - Establish criteria for starting antibiotics
 - Develop antibiotic prescribing policies
 - SBAR structure to improve communication
 - Time Out-Reassessing
 - Communicate antibiotic



Core Elements Antibiotic Stewardship cont'd.

- Track and Monitor
 - Adherence to policies
 - Audit use of resident assessment and communication tools
 - Adherence to facility guidelines
 - Sources for data: Pharmacy, EMR, Manual Chart Review



Core Elements Antibiotic Stewardship cont'd.

- Reporting
 - Provide feedback
 - Antibigram



Core Elements Antibiotic Stewardship cont'd.

- Education
 - Builds a foundation
 - CDC has developed a course for providers
 - Start discussion on admission



Antibiotic Stewardship and the IP

- Care Transitions
 - Movement from hospital to nursing homes and back
 - Poor communication during transition
 - Differences in communication process
 - Poor organization of data sent
 - Inadequate time for hand off
 - Missing or inaccurate in written discharge documentation



Care Transition Risks

- Consequences of poor communication
 - Delays in initiation of treatment
 - Implementation of inappropriate care plan
 - Prolonged exposure to medications (antibiotics)
 - Greater risk of readmission
 - Frustration for residents and families



New IC F Tags

- F883 Influenza and pneumococcal immunizations
- F884 COVID-19 Reporting to CDC
- F885 COVID-19 Reporting to Residents, their Representatives and Families
- F886 COVID testing residents and families



F883 Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunizations

- Education
- Residents are offered an influenza immunization October 1 through March 31 annually or pneumonia
- Opportunity to refuse immunization
- Documentation
- Education regarding the benefits and side effects
 - Received or did not receive



F884 & F885 Reporting

- F884 COVID-19 Reporting to CDC
- F885 COVID-19 Reporting to Residents, their Representatives and Families



F884 Reporting CDC

CMS Federal Surveyors during offsite reviews.

- COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes (updated 5/8/2020, Critical Element #8)
- Reporting at least once a week
- Required data elements
- Deficiency citation
- Civil Monetary Penalty (CMP)



F885 Reporting Residents

- Communicate with residents, representatives and family members
- Onsite surveys by either State or Federal Surveyors
- COVID-19 Focused Survey Protocol
- Mechanism(s) to inform residents/reps/families
- Citation and enforcement actions



F886 Testing

- Test residents and facility staff
- Conduct testing based on parameters
 - Testing frequency
 - Who to test and when
 - Response time
 - Documentation
 - Action
 - Refuse to test



Infection Control Program

- Teamwork
- Collaboration
- Partnership
- Relationships



Infection Prevention Committee

- Make up of committee
- Meet quarterly or monthly as needed
- Complete IC risk assessment
- Implement Infection Control plan review
- Create, Review and Revise policy and procedures
- Develop audits, frequency and responsibilities
- Discuss rates of infections, clusters, outbreaks, analyze surveillance data
- Develop and plan corrective actions
- Summary report for QAPI



The Infection Control Committee

- Infection Preventionist
- DON/ADON/Unit manager
- Few front-line staff members
- Laundry Services
- Dietary
- Facilities/Environmental services
- Lab
- Therapy (PT, OT, ST, Respiratory)
- Physician
- Purchasing



Infection Prevention and QAPI

- IP will report to QAPI
- Infection Control Risk Assessment Discussion
- Identify Gaps/High Risk Areas
- Root Cause Analyses
- Identify improvement opportunities



QAPI and the IP

- Quality Assurance Committee can offer critical support to the IP
 - Review the risk assessment to identify high risk areas/gaps
 - Identify performance improvement projects
 - Conduct root cause analysis and develop an action plan
 - Review and support the IC policy and procedures



Director of Nursing

- Manager culture of safety
- Evaluate the annual plan
- New regulations and compliance
- Promote adherence to policies
- Audits/Rounding
- Meet weekly or more frequently as needed



Staff Development

- Staff education
- Audits
- Orientation Collaboration
- Annual competency evaluation checklist
- Performance monitoring and feedback
- Surveillance



MDS Nurse

- Assessments
- Care Planning
- Tracking infections and antibiotic utilization
- Wounds
- Focus of Quality Measures



Lab

- Adherence to Infection Control P/P when in the facility
- Point Person at the Lab
- Work to improve quality of specimens
- Appropriate use of tests and cultures
- Rapid diagnostic testing/rapid reporting
- Accessible data



Rehab/Therapy

- Part of the team
- Interaction with residents
- Understanding and adherence to policy and procedures
- Isolation procedures
- Equipment



Respiratory Therapy

- Respiratory Protection Program
- Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
- Trach Care
- Aerosol Treatments
- Fit Testing



Nursing Home Administrator

- Glue
- Understand and support the IP program
- Connect to the medical director, pharmacist, suppliers,
- Provide the ICP with the resources
- Afford the ICP the time



Admissions / Clinical Liaison

- Face of the community
- Clinical Liaison
- Know the IP program
- Feel comfortable talking
- Support
- Concerns



Social Worker

- Meet with residents
- Provide counseling, assist in financial assistance needs, coordinate outreach for families, link residents to community services, assist with discharge needs and are advocate for the resident
- Available to residents and families



Social Work

- Understand
- Practice good IP techniques and procedures
- Be a resource to the staff
- Work with the infection preventionist
- Be an active connection
- Connect non-English speaking residents
- Be available
- Take resident concerns about IP to the ICP Committee / QAPI



Human Resources

- Be educated on the IP program
- Communicate the importance of IP to each potential new employee
- Participate in new employee orientation
- Support the ICP to accomplish the goals



Activities Director

“Activities”

- Connect the residents
- Work with the social worker
- Keep the residents connected
- Inform the Administrator and the IP
- Assist the IP
- Provide structured learning



Environmental Services

- Policy development and review
- Chemical selection
- Cleaning
- Observe cleaning techniques
- Review flow of Laundry
- Biohazard process control and storage



Environmental Services

- Policy Development and Review
- Review of in-services and documented training
 - Staff must be trained upon hire, annually and as needed
 - Transmission based precautions
 - PPE
 - Isolation Cleaning
 - Cleaning technique
 - Terminal cleaning
 - Safety Data Sheets (SDS)



Environmental Services

- Chemical Selection
 - Identify appropriate chemical for pathogen
 - Verify chemical efficacy Forms
 - Determine Chemical dwell times
 - Ensure chemicals are appropriate for surfaces



Environmental Services

- Observe Cleaning Techniques
 - Handwashing frequency
 - Appropriate PPE
 - Changing mop water
 - Cross contamination
 - Housekeeping cart integrity
 - Carts are locked and secured
 - Burnishing



Environmental Services

- Review laundry policies and procedures
- Review the flow of laundry clean to dirty
- PPE must be used while sorting soiled linens



Environmental Services

- Biohazard Control and Storage
 - Storage areas must be secured
 - Biohazards must be boxed and stored off the floor
 - Use clearly identifiable labels and containers
 - Ensure appropriate training for staff



Dining Services

- Communal Dining
- Limiting Contact
- Paper Products
- Leadership



Summary

- Know and follow regulations
- Have a dynamic Infection Preventionists
- Understand the role of each department



Resources Available

- CMS
- CDC Website
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/prevention/index.html>
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)



Additional Resources

- Long Term Care Assessment tool
<file:///C:/Users/CBenfer/Documents/Infection%20prevention%20documents/Mod1%20The%20Infection%20Prevention%20and%20Control%20Program/ltcf%20Assessment%20tool.pdf>
- Integrating IPCP plan into QAPI
file:///C:/Users/CBenfer/Documents/Infection%20prevention%20documents/Mod3%20Integrating%20IPC%20into%20QAPI/Mod3_Resource%20List%20Integrating%20into%20QAPI.pdf
- Infection Surveillance
file:///C:/Users/CBenfer/Documents/Infection%20prevention%20documents/Mod4%20Infection%20Surveillance/Mod4_Resource%20List%20Infection%20Surveillance.pdf
file:///C:/Users/CBenfer/Documents/Infection%20prevention%20documents/Mod4%20Infection%20Surveillance/Mod4_Rate%20Calculation%20Resource.pdf
- Point of Care Blood Testing
file:///C:/Users/CBenfer/Documents/Infection%20prevention%20documents/Mod10D%20Point%20of%20Care%20Blood%20Testing/Mod10D_Template_Point%20of%20Care%20Blood%20Testing.pdf
- Repurposing Reusable Equipment
file:///C:/Users/CBenfer/Documents/Infection%20prevention%20documents/Mod11A%20Repurposing%20Reusable%20Equipment/Mod11A_Resource%20List%20reprocessing%20reusable%20resident%20equipment.pdf
- Water Management
file:///C:/Users/CBenfer/Documents/Infection%20prevention%20documents/Mod11C%20Water%20Management/Mod11C_Resource%20List.pdf
- Linen Management
file:///C:/Users/CBenfer/Documents/Infection%20prevention%20documents/Mod11D%20Linen%20Management/Mod11D_Resource%20List.pdf
- Preventing Respiratory Infections
file:///C:/Users/CBenfer/Documents/Infection%20prevention%20documents/Mod12A%20Preventing%20Respiratory%20Infections/Mod12A_Resource%20List.pdf
- Occupational Health Considerations
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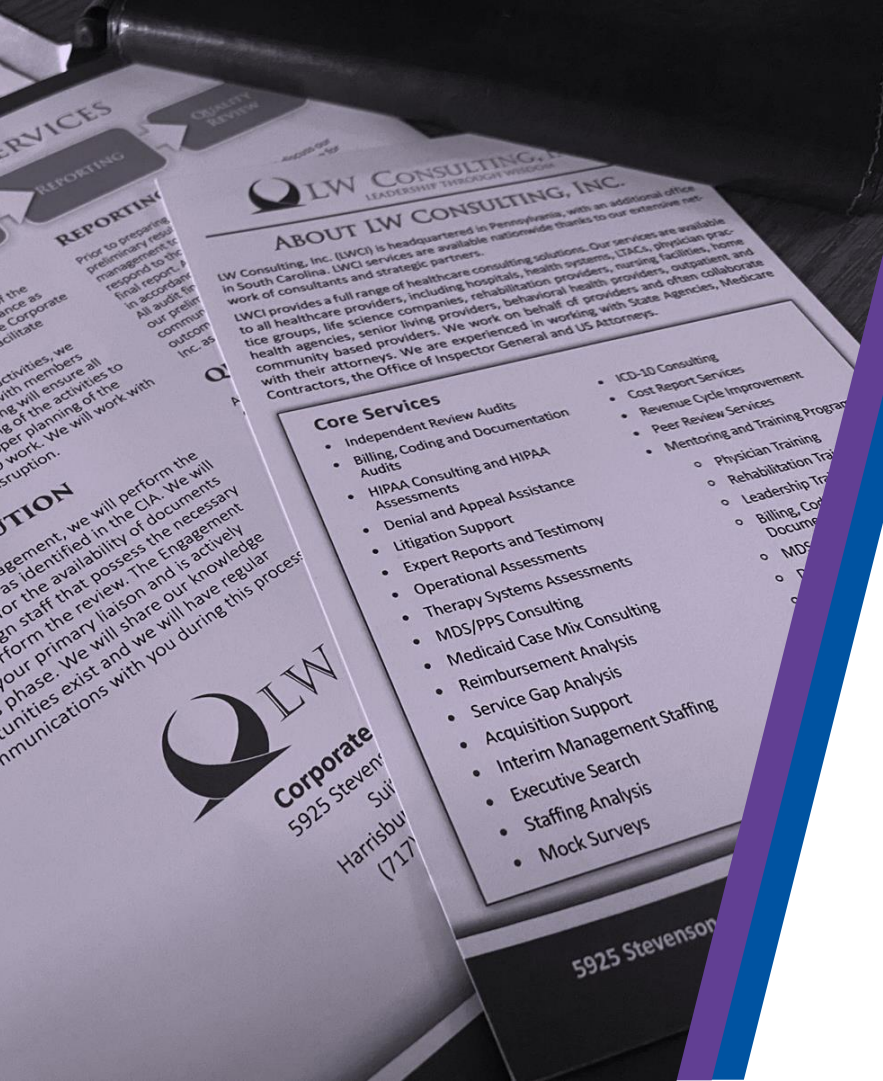


Contact Information

Patty Klinefelter, MBA, RN, ICP, BC – Director
pklinefelter@lw-consult.com
540-660-9152



5925 Stevenson Avenue, Suite G
Harrisburg, PA 17112
1.800.320.5401 | www.LW-Consult.com



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LW
Corporate Services
5925 Stevenson Avenue, Suite G
Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 540-6609