

Infection Control Specialist

Classification Number:

6034

Series Concept:

This classification develops, implements and administers facility-wide systems and programs to prevent and control infection and disease. It is responsible for participatory development of regulations governing the health care facility(ies) and disaster or emergency activities related to infectious disease planning, and preparedness.

Identifies needs for, plans, develops, implements and monitors facilities' infection control systems through:

- ✓ surveillance of patients, employees and the environment
- ✓ evaluation of medical, nursing, dietary, food handling, sanitation, laundry and waste disposal practices, and
- ✓ review of statistical, laboratory or medical records or reports.

The infection control specialist is also responsible for interpreting federal and state laws related to infection control, promoting higher levels of preparedness through policy and regulatory changes, providing expertise and support during a disaster or emergency, and for responding to disease outbreaks.

Compiles and analyzes facility data to determine and solve problems. Maintain s knowledge of health regulations, infection control practices, procedures and theories. Examines, drafts, updates and publishes facility infection control policies and their procedures and practices; develop/update criteria and procedural changes. Works cross-functionally in advising committees, department managers, leadership of changes in laws and/or advances in medicine that relate to communicable disease and infection control. Recommends changes to comply with standards originating from the Center for Disease Control and to comply with regulating agencies. Investigates infection control issues, complaints and take appropriate action.

Advises management of outbreaks, recommend courses of action, and consult with local, State and Federal agencies in reporting diseases. May perform surveillance of hospital-acquired infection. Inspects inpatient areas as well as offices, clinics or facilities and offer solutions to correct deficiencies and problems.

Provides training and education through seminars, in service and orientation or through dissemination of information to department managers and employees. Develops courses in infection control and trains health-related personnel who are responsible for the delivery of health care services.

Participates in development and implementation of quality initiatives, safety programs, risk and utilization management activities and programs.

Provides support and expertise during disasters and emergencies.

May provide direct healthcare to patients to mitigate the spread of infection, within the scope of license.

Distinguishing Features

There is a single classification and not part of a series.

Minimum Qualifications & Skills

EDUCATION: Baccalaureate degree in nursing or B.S. - medical technology or related field.

EXPERIENCE: Three years clinical experience in a medical setting. Minimum of 2 years infection control experience, including experience with compliance, quality assurance and regulatory programs.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE: A current Oregon state R.N. license may be required depending on the requirements of the position. Possession of a certificate in Infection Control or eligibility required.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS: Demonstrated positive interpersonal and communication skills with colleagues, patients, families, physicians, and the community. Must be able to communicate effectively in various modes within the healthcare community and be able to manage crises and solve problems.