**Infection Control-Infection Preventionist**

**Competency**

General Information

**Infection Preventionist**

**General Information**

In health care, the only constant is change. Staying on top of the most recent material is a never-ending job. Facilities will need to ensure that they have a solid process to ensure the requirements for the Infection Preventionist are consistent with regulatory compliance in order to ensure systems are in place prevent and control the spread of infection in the facility.

The Requirements of Participation have outlined 4 federal tags associated with Infection Control at §483.80 (F880 – F883) to include:

**F880: Infection Control** is the broad-based requirement stating, “The facility must establish and maintain an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

“The Infection Prevention and Control Program must include the following parts:

• A system for preventing, identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases that:

* Covers all residents, staff, volunteers, visitors, and other individuals providing services under a contractual arrangement;
* Is based on the individual facility assessment;
* Follows accepted national standards;
* Written standards, policies and procedures in accordance with §483.80(a)(2);
* A system for recording incidents identified under the IPCP and corrective actions taken by the facility; and

• An antibiotic stewardship program (ASP) (F881).”[[2]](#footnote-2)

**F881:** **Antibiotic Stewardship** addresses the Antibiotic Stewardship Program that includes antibiotic use protocols and a system to monitor antibiotic use. “The intent of this regulation is to ensure that the facility:

• Develops and implements protocols to optimize the treatment of infections by ensuring that residents who require an antibiotic, are prescribed the appropriate antibiotic;

• Reduces the risk of adverse events, including the development of antibiotic-resistant organisms, from unnecessary or inappropriate antibiotic use; and

• Develops, promotes, and implements a facility-wide system to monitor the use of antibiotics.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

**F882: Infection Preventionist** This requirement addresses the designation and requirements for the Infection Preventionist. All related requirements will be implemented in Phase 3 beginning November 28, 2019.

* The facility must designate one or more individual(s) to be the infection preventionist who will be responsible for the Infection Prevention and Control Program and must:
	+ §483.80(b)(1) Have primary professional training in nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology, or other related field;
	+ §483.80(b)(2) Be qualified by education, training, experience or certification;
	+ §483.80(b)(3) Work at least part-time at the facility; and
	+ §483.80(b)(4) Have completed specialized training in infection prevention and control.
	+ §483.80 (c) IP participation on quality assessment and assurance committee. The individual designated as the IP, or at least one of the individuals if there is more than one IP, must be a member of the facility’s quality assessment and assurance committee and report to the committee on the IPCP on a regular basis.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

**F883: Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunization** outlines the requirements related to influenza and pneumococcal immunizations.

“The intent of this regulation is to:

* Minimize the risk of residents acquiring, transmitting, or experiencing complications from influenza and pneumococcal disease by ensuring that each resident:
* Is informed about the benefits and risks of immunizations; and
* Has the opportunity to receive the influenza and pneumococcal vaccine(s), unless medically contraindicated, refused or was already immunized.
* Ensure documentation in the resident’s medical record of the information/education provided regarding the benefits and risks of immunization and the administration or the refusal of or medical contraindications to the vaccine(s).”[[5]](#footnote-5)

**Description**

Infection Preventionists are experts on practical methods of preventing and controlling the spread of infectious disease. Infection control practices include surveillance, investigation of cases and outbreaks, training of staff members, the development and enforcement of infection control policies, and evaluation of the effectiveness of infection control efforts. If an outbreak occurs, infection preventionists track down the source and control the problem. They collect and analyze data, observe staff members’ practices, participate in rounds, attend meetings, and design and lead interventions to improve infection prevention and control. Many infection preventionists in health care settings have additional responsibilities, such as employee health.[[6]](#footnote-6)

**Suggested Competencies for Infection Preventionist**

* Infection Control Program and Infrastructure
* Healthcare Personnel and Resident Safety
* Surveillance and Disease Reporting
* Hand Hygiene and Standard Precautions
* Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Transmission Based Precautions
* Respiratory/Cough Etiquette
* Antibiotic Stewardship
* Injection Safety and Point of Care Testing
* Environmental Cleaning

**F-Tag Reference General Information**

The primary F tags that could be cited during a survey that are related to Infection Preventionist Competency include:

* F690 Incontinence-Prevention of Urinary Tract Infections
* F756 Drug Regimen Review, Report Irregularities, Act On
* F757 Drug Regimen Is Free from Unnecessary Drugs
* F812 Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve – Sanitary
* F838 Facility Assessment
* F868 QAA Committee
* F880 Infection Prevention and Control
* F881 Antibiotic Stewardship Program
* F882 Infection Preventionist Qualifications/Role (PHASE 3)
* F883 Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunizations

**Link to Critical Element Pathway(s)**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Infection Prevention, Control & Immunization Critical Element Pathway. CMS-200054:<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/guidanceforlawsandregulations/nursing-homes.html>

**References and Resources**

* Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services State Operations Manual, Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities (Rev. 173, 11-22-17): <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines_ltcf.pdf>
* Career of the Week in Public Health: Infection Preventionist. Springer Publishing Company. January 29, 2013. <https://www.springerpub.com/w/public-health/career-of-the-week-in-public-health-infection-preventionist/>
* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Long-Term Care Facilities. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/icar/ltcf.pdf>
* LTC Survey Pathways (Download) – CMS-20054 Infection Prevention, Control & Immunization; CMS-20055 Kitchen Observation; CMS-20061 Environment; CMS 20082 Unnecessary Medications: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/guidanceforlawsandregulations/nursing-homes.html>
1. 1,2,3 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services State Operations Manual, Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities (Rev. 173, 11-22-17): <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines_ltcf.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 4,5 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services State Operations Manual, Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities (Rev. 173, 11-22-17): <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines_ltcf.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Career of the Week in Public Health: Infection Preventionist. Springer Publishing Company. January 29, 2013. <https://www.springerpub.com/w/public-health/career-of-the-week-in-public-health-infection-preventionist/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)