

Self-Assessment Tool: Infection Prevention and Control

The *Infection Prevention and Control* practice standard is one of the standards selected for the QA Program in 2009–2010.

Ensuring the use of safe, effective and ethical infection prevention and control measures is an important component of nursing practice. Nurses in all roles and practice settings can demonstrate leadership in infection prevention and control by using their knowledge, skill and judgment to initiate appropriate and immediate infection control procedures.

This tool will help you identify your areas of strength and the areas you need to improve related to the *Infection Prevention and Control* practice standard, and give you information on how to apply the standard to your individual practice. The tool lists the four standard statements specific to the practice standard. This is not a comprehensive summary of the *Infection Prevention and Control* document, which can be viewed [here](#).

The tool can be downloaded or copied for future use.

How to use this tool

Step 1 Review the behavioural indicators listed in the tool.

If you are unsure of the behavioural indicator, read the bulleted notes to get an example of the indicator being used in practice.

Step 2 Identify your areas of strength and the areas you need to improve.

After reviewing each behavioural indicator, use the box beside the statement to show whether the indicator is an area of strength or an area you need to improve.

If you need more space to write your examples, print additional copies of the tool or use extra paper.

- **Area of strength:** If you choose this box, provide an example of how or why this is an area of strength for you.
- **Area of improvement:** If you choose this box, provide an example of why it is an area requiring improvement and how you can improve that area in your practice.

Step 3 Use the information on the tool to develop learning goals that you can use in your Learning Plan form.

Once you have identified your areas of strength and the areas you need to improve, you can create your learning goals and start developing your [Learning Plan](#).

Create your goal statement by starting with a phrase, for example:

“I want to share my knowledge/expertise about ...” (for areas of strength); or

“I want to work on/learn how to...” (for areas of improvement).

Then add the applicable behavioural indicator that was noted as an area of improvement or strength. This information forms the basis for documenting activities in the “Activities to achieve my goal” section of the Learning Plan form. Click here for the College’s [Learning Plan form](#).

Remember to incorporate the following four elements into your self-assessment and the development of your [Learning Plan](#):

- advances in technology;
- changes in the practice environment;
- entry-to-practice competencies; and
- interprofessional care.

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| <p>Behavioural indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bullet points are examples of how the indicator can be applied in practice. | <p>Identify whether the behavioural indicator is an area of strength, with an example, or an area you need to improve, with an example of how that area can be improved.</p> | |
| <p>Application of evidence-based measures: Nurses understand and apply evidence-based measures to prevent and control transmission of micro-organisms that are likely to cause infection. You meet this indicator by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining competence in infection control practices by accessing appropriate resources. Taking appropriate action when a co-worker has potentially transmissible disease. Advocating for an environment and equipment that reduce the risk for disease transmission. Taking all measures necessary to prevent the transmission of infection from the nurse to others. | <p>Area of strength</p> | <p>Area of improvement</p> |
| <p>Application of professional judgment: Nurses exercise professional judgment relevant to each client situation and all infection prevention and control practices. You meet this indicator by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifying your practice appropriately when there is a risk of transmitting a disease to clients or other health care providers. Advocating for change when guidelines do not meet infection control requirements regarding appropriate use and fit of personal protective equipment (PPE). Assessing situations for potential or actual infectious disease transmission. | | |

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| <p>Risk reduction: Nurses reduce the risk to themselves and others by appropriately handling, cleaning and disposing of materials and equipment. You meet this indicator by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting a breach in infection control technique and taking action to limit damage. • Advocating for safety devices. • Advocating for changes in your practice based on an evaluation or evidence. • Participating in education on the use of safer medical devices and work practices relevant to the practice setting. | | |
| <p>Communication: Nurses use appropriate and timely communication strategies with clients and their significant others, the health care team and the community when discussing infection prevention and control issues. You meet this indicator by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing creative or innovative communication strategies to overcome factors that could inhibit a therapeutic nurse-client relationship. • Communicating safety concerns to the appropriate authority. • Advocating for communication systems that protect client confidentiality. | | |
| <p>During the Self-Assessment process, incorporate the following four elements into your reflection.</p> | | |
| | <p>Area of strength</p> | <p>Area of improvement</p> |
| <p>Entry-to-practice competencies: Expectations that all nurses must maintain throughout their career. The RN, RPN and NP competency statements are available at www.cno.org/qa.</p> | | |
| <p>Advances in technology: The introduction of new, innovative or different skills, processes or knowledge into a nurse's practice setting. For example, learning how to use a new electronic documentation system.</p> | | |

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| <p>Changes in the practice environment: Changes that require additional knowledge, skill and judgment for a nurse to deliver safe, effective and ethical nursing care. For example, changes in the client population, nursing care delivery systems or legislation.</p> | | |
| <p>Interprofessional care: The provision of comprehensive health services to patients by multiple health caregivers who work collaboratively to deliver quality care within and across settings.</p> | | |