



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 16, 2025

DAL: NH 25-15
Subject: Infection Control and Expectations of
the Infection Preventionist

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

As referenced in a 2024 report, certain skilled nursing facilities were found by the Office of Inspector General ([Report A-01-22-00001](#)) to not have in place a qualified Infection Preventionist as required under Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 483.80(b). The purpose of this letter is to remind skilled nursing homes of their infection prevention and control regulatory obligations as it relates to the requirement for the qualified Infection Preventionist, and to reiterate the importance of this role in the protection of the nursing home population, including the protection of both residents and staff.

Infections in the nursing home population have been associated with high morbidity and mortality rates, rehospitalizations, lengthy hospital stays, and considerable healthcare related expenses. It is imperative that skilled nursing homes have an effective, robust infection prevention and control program to mitigate the onset and spread of infections. The qualified infection preventionist is responsible for assessing, developing, implementing, monitoring, and managing the infection prevention and control program. Per regulation, the skilled nursing home must designate one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) who are responsible for the skilled nursing home's infection prevention and control program. The infection preventionist must:

- 1) Have primary professional training in nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology, or other related field;
- 2) Be qualified by education, training, experience or certification;
- 3) Work at least part-time at the skilled nursing home; and
- 4) Have completed specialized training in infection prevention and control.

Prior to assuming the role, an Infection Preventionist must have obtained specialized infection prevention control training beyond initial professional training or education. Training can occur through more than one course, but the infection preventionist must provide evidence of training through a certificate(s) of completion or equivalent documentation.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recommends specialized training include the following topics:

- Infection prevention and control program overview,
- The infection preventionist's role,
- Infection surveillance,
- Outbreaks,
- Principles of standard precautions

- Principles of transmission-based precautions,
- Resident care activities
- Water management,
- Linen management,
- Preventing respiratory infections,
- Tuberculosis prevention,
- Occupational health considerations
- Quality assurance and performance improvement,
- Antibiotic stewardship, and
- Care transitions.

A free online training is available and was developed by a collaboration between the CMS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This course, "Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course - WB4448R," is located at https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training_plan/3814. In addition to the specialized training, the Infection Preventionist should remain current with infection prevention and control issues and be aware of acceptable national standards. Additionally, the New York State Department of Health posted infection control in-services on its Public Health Learns system at <https://www.nylearnsph.com/Public/Default.aspx>. Users can search the Course Catalogue for the Office of Aging and Long-Term Care and enroll in OALTC-526 "Infection Control: Fall 2024 Update from IPRO" and/or OALTC 506 "Infection Control: Back to Basics." While these do not meet the federal specialized training in infection prevention and control requirement, they are useful educational resources just the same.

If you have questions regarding the infection preventionist requirement for skilled nursing homes, please write to the Division of Nursing Home and ICF/IID Surveillance at nhinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephanie E. Paton, RN, Director
Division of Nursing Home and ICF/IID Surveillance

Enclosure

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