

Module 3 Section B: Patient Safety Term Adverse event APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Any negative impact event involving one or more patients in a healthcare setting, including but not limited to sentinel events, drug-related errors, HAIs (including surgical site infections), technical or nontechnical competency errors, diagnostic mishaps, therapeutic mishaps, or process errors.
Module 3 Section B: Patient Safety Term Lapse APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	An internal failure occurring from failures of memory and memory storage.
Module 3 Section B: Patient Safety Term Near-miss APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	An event in which the unwanted consequences were prevented because there was a recovery by planned or unplanned identification and correction of the failure. (AHRQ)
Module 3 Section B: Patient Safety Term Organizational culture APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	The set of values, guiding beliefs, or ways of thinking that are shared among members of an organization.

Module 3
Section B: Patient Safety

Term
Sentinel event

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An event resulting in death or serious physical or psychological harm or the risk thereof.

Module 3
Section B: Patient Safety

Term
Slip

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An external failure in a plan due to reduced intentionality.

Module 3
*Section D: IPC Risk Assessment Tools, and
Other Risk Assessments*

Term
Checklist

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A tool that helps ensure that each list element is thoroughly considered or reviewed, that nothing is missed; checklist elements should reflect evidence-based good practices and requirements.

Module 3
Section K: Infection Prevention Research

Term
Cohort

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A group sharing a common experience, such as the use of central lines.

Module 3

Section K: Infection Prevention Research

Term

Implementation science

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Methods to promote the use of evidence-based practices to improve healthcare quality.

Module 3

Section A: Planning and Implementing Risk-Based IPCPs

Term

IPC team

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The group of people responsible for carrying out all aspects of the IPC program as delegated by facility leadership; the core of this team includes the IP, the chair of the IPC committee, the healthcare epidemiologist (if this position is staffed at the facility), and possibly someone responsible for occupational health or administration.

Module 3

Section A: Planning and Implementing Risk-Based IPCPs

Term

Infection prevention and control program (IPC program)

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An evidence- and risk-based comprehensive system that promotes a culture of patient safety, sets policies and procedures to minimize or reduce healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in hospitals and other healthcare settings, monitors compliance, and addresses the need to continuously improve.

Module 3

Section A: Planning and Implementing Risk-Based IPCPs

Term

Infection preventionist (IP)

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Professionals who make sure that healthcare workers and residents are doing all the things they should to prevent infections. (APIC)

Module 3

Section A: Planning and Implementing Risk-Based IPCPs

Term
Risk assessment

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A diagnostic tool for identifying trends and interventions that will help prevent and control infections.

Module 3

Section E: Planning for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term
Balancing measure

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A performance measure that looks at a system from multiple angles or dimensions to avoid unintended consequences from a change in a different part of the system.

Module 3

Section E: Planning for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term
Clinical measure

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A type of performance measure designed to evaluate the processes or outcomes of care associated with the delivery of clinical services, to allow for intra- and interorganizational comparisons to be used to continuously improve resident health outcomes, and to focus on the appropriateness of clinical decision making and implementation of these decisions.

Module 3

Section E: Planning for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term
Minimum performance threshold

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The level below which the process being used to reach a higher goal needs revision or improvement.

Module 3

Section E: Planning for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term

Mission statement

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A description of the organization's purpose or goal; used to guide decision making and actions.

Module 3

Section E: Planning for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term

Performance improvement

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An ongoing continuous cycle that focuses on resident clinical outcomes, customer satisfaction, and service.

Module 3

Section E: Planning for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term

Performance measure

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A quantitative tool that provides an indication of an organization's performance in relation to a specified process or outcome.

Module 3

Section E: Planning for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term

Quality assurance

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A process of meeting quality standards and assuring that care reaches an acceptable level. (CMS)

Module 3

Section E: Planning for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term
Structural measure

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A measure that assesses features of a healthcare organization or clinician relevant to its capacity to provide healthcare. (CMS)

Module 3

Section E: Planning for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term
Vision statement

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A snapshot of an organization's intended future.

Module 3

Section F: Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term
Care bundle

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A small, straightforward set of evidence-based practices that, when performed collectively and reliably, have been proven to improve patient outcomes. (IHI).

Module 3

Section F: Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term
Failure mode and effect analysis (FMEA)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A systematic, proactive method for evaluating a process to identify where and how it might fail and to assess the relative impact of different failures in order to identify the parts of the process that are most in need of change.

Module 3

Section F: Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term Flowchart

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A diagram with boxes that show process steps, questions, people, systems, or other data of interest, with lines illustrating how the elements are interrelated.

Module 3

Section F: Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term Gap analysis

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A technique to compare best practices with current processes and determine the steps to take to move from a current state to a desired future state.

Module 3

Section F: Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term Off-label use

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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The application of a product for a purpose that is not included in the approved device labeling.

Module 3

Section F: Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term Pareto chart

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A type of bar chart that sorts a data series into vertical bars, each of which depicts an action or cause of interest, in descending order of height from left to right.

Module 3

Section F: Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term

Product evaluation

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A process of appraisal that considers the value and significance of quality, cost, safety, and practitioner choice for product selection. (APIC)

Module 3

Section F: Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term

Reproducibility

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Evaluates whether findings can be repeated consistently when applied to new populations, to different institutions, or by different individuals. (Quality Indicator Study Group)

Module 3

Section F: Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Term

Root cause analysis (RCA)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A process for identifying the basic or causal factors that underlie variation in performance.

Module 3

Section G: Preventing/Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents

Term

Airborne precautions

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Used to prevent the transmission of infectious organisms that remain suspended in the air and travel great distances due to their small size.

Module 3

*Section G: Preventing/Controlling the
Transmission of Infectious Agents*

Term

Contact precautions

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Used to prevent the transmission of infectious organisms that are spread by contact with the patient or the patient's environment.

Module 3

*Section G: Preventing/Controlling the
Transmission of Infectious Agents*

Term

Droplet precautions

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Used to prevent the transmission of infectious organisms that are spread through large respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, or talking.

Module 3

*Section G: Preventing/Controlling the
Transmission of Infectious Agents*

Term

Protective environment

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A type of TBP that is designed to protect a patient from others who may be potentially harmful to them by placing them in a specialized area.

Module 3

*Section G: Preventing/Controlling the
Transmission of Infectious Agents*

Term

Standard precautions (SP) strategies

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A series of evidence-based procedures, used for all patients in all settings, to reduce the presence of microbiological agents in a healthcare facility and to prevent cross-contamination between HCP, patients, and the environment.

Module 3

Section G: Preventing/Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents

Term

Transmission-based precautions (TBP)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Procedures used with residents who are known or suspected to be infected or colonized with infectious agents, including certain epidemiologically important pathogens.

Module 3

Section H: Controlling Infections Associated with Medical Procedures

Term

Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Pneumonia occurring in any patient admitted to the hospital from the community.

Module 3

Section H: Controlling Infections Associated with Medical Procedures

Term

Healthcare-acquired pneumonia (HCAP)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Pneumonia occurring in patients with any of the following special epidemiological characteristics: (1) hospitalized in an acute care hospital for 2 or more days within 90 days of the current infection; (2) resided in a nursing home or LTC facility; (3) received recent intravenous antibiotic therapy, chemotherapy, or wound care within the past 30 days of current infection; or (4) attended a hospital or hemodialysis clinic.

Module 3

Section H: Controlling Infections Associated with Medical Procedures

Term

Hospital-acquired pneumonia (HAP)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Pneumonia developing ≥ 48 hours after admission to the hospital.

Module 3

Section H: Controlling Infections Associated with Medical Procedures

Term

Non-ventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia (NV-HAP)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Pneumonia identified in patients not on mechanical ventilation.

Module 3

Section H: Controlling Infections Associated with Medical Procedures

Term

Pneumonia

APIC a-IPC Learning System

© 2025

A severe inflammation of the lungs in which the alveoli (tiny air sacs) are filled with fluid.

Module 3

Section H: Controlling Infections Associated with Medical Procedures

Term

Vascular access device (VAD)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Any device used to access the vascular system for hemodynamic monitoring, medication administration, infusions, blood sampling, or dialysis. (APIC)

Module 3

Section H: Controlling Infections Associated with Medical Procedures

Term

Ventilator-associated event (VAE)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A condition that results in a significant and sustained deterioration in oxygenation.

Module 3

*Section H: Controlling Infections Associated
with Medical Procedures*

Term

Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A type of HAP that develops in patients who have been intubated and have received mechanical ventilation for at least 48 hours.

Module 3

Section I: Vaccines

Term

Active immunization

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Antibodies against a specific disease produced by the immune system. Active immunity can be acquired in two ways: by contracting the disease, or through vaccination.

Module 3

Section I: Vaccines

Term

Antitoxin

APIC a-IPC Learning System

© 2025

A solution of antibodies derived from the serum of animals immunized with specific antigens.

Module 3

Section I: Vaccines

Term

Immunobiologic

APIC a-IPC Learning System

© 2025

An antigenic substance or antibody containing preparation used to induce immunity and prevent infectious disease.

Module 3
Section I: Vaccines

Term
Immunoglobulin (Ig)

APIC a-IPC Learning System

© 2025

A sterile solution containing antibodies from human blood.

Module 3
Section I: Vaccines

Term
Passive immunization

APIC a-IPC Learning System

© 2025

Use of an preparation containing antibodies produced by another human or animal to enhance or restore immunity.

Module 3
Section I: Vaccines

Term
Precaution

APIC a-IPC Learning System

© 2025

A condition in a potential vaccine recipient that might increase the risk for either a serious adverse event or that might compromise the ability of the vaccine to produce immunity in the recipient.

Module 3
Section I: Vaccines

Term
Toxoid

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A modified (nontoxic) bacterial toxin that is capable of stimulating antitoxin formation.

Module 3
Section I: Vaccines

Term
Vaccine

APIC a-IPC Learning System

© 2025

A preparation that is used to stimulate the body's immune response against diseases. (CDC)

Module 3
Section J: Infection Prevention Education

Term
Active learning

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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The concept that learners learn more and retain their learning longer if they acquire it in an active rather than a passive manner.

Module 3
Section J: Infection Prevention Education

Term
Audits

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Direct observations of HCP practices in the healthcare setting, often facilitated using checklists.

Module 3
Section J: Infection Prevention Education

Term
Certification

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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A standardized measure enabling a person to demonstrate a predetermined competency level deemed necessary for persons practicing infection prevention and control.

Module 3 <i>Section J: Infection Prevention Education</i> Term Continuing education APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Opportunities to acquire general or focused knowledge through lecture, discussion, or interactive methods.
Module 3 <i>Section J: Infection Prevention Education</i> Term Formative evaluation APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	A training evaluation conducted during the planning of an educational session to provide immediate feedback and to allow appropriate changes to be made.
Module 3 <i>Section J: Infection Prevention Education</i> Term Hawthorne effect APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	When individuals modify their behavior in response to their awareness of being observed.
Module 3 <i>Section J: Infection Prevention Education</i> Term In-service training APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Formal and/or informal work-related systematic training delivered on site in a group training session by the employer to provide continuing professional development related to HCP knowledge, skills, and behaviors.

Module 3

Section J: Infection Prevention Education

Term Licensure

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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Recognition by a governmental agency (e.g., a state or provincial nursing or medical board) that an individual has met the minimum requirements to practice in the jurisdiction.

Module 3

Section J: Infection Prevention Education

Term Return demonstration

APIC a-IPC Learning System

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An activity in which HCP demonstrate proper exercise of a given competency by performing the required processes as they were taught.

Module 3

Section J: Infection Prevention Education

Term Summative evaluation

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A training evaluation that occurs after a program is completed to determine impact and overall effectiveness.