

The Journey From a Novice to Infection Prevention and Control Specialist Nurse

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Introduction:

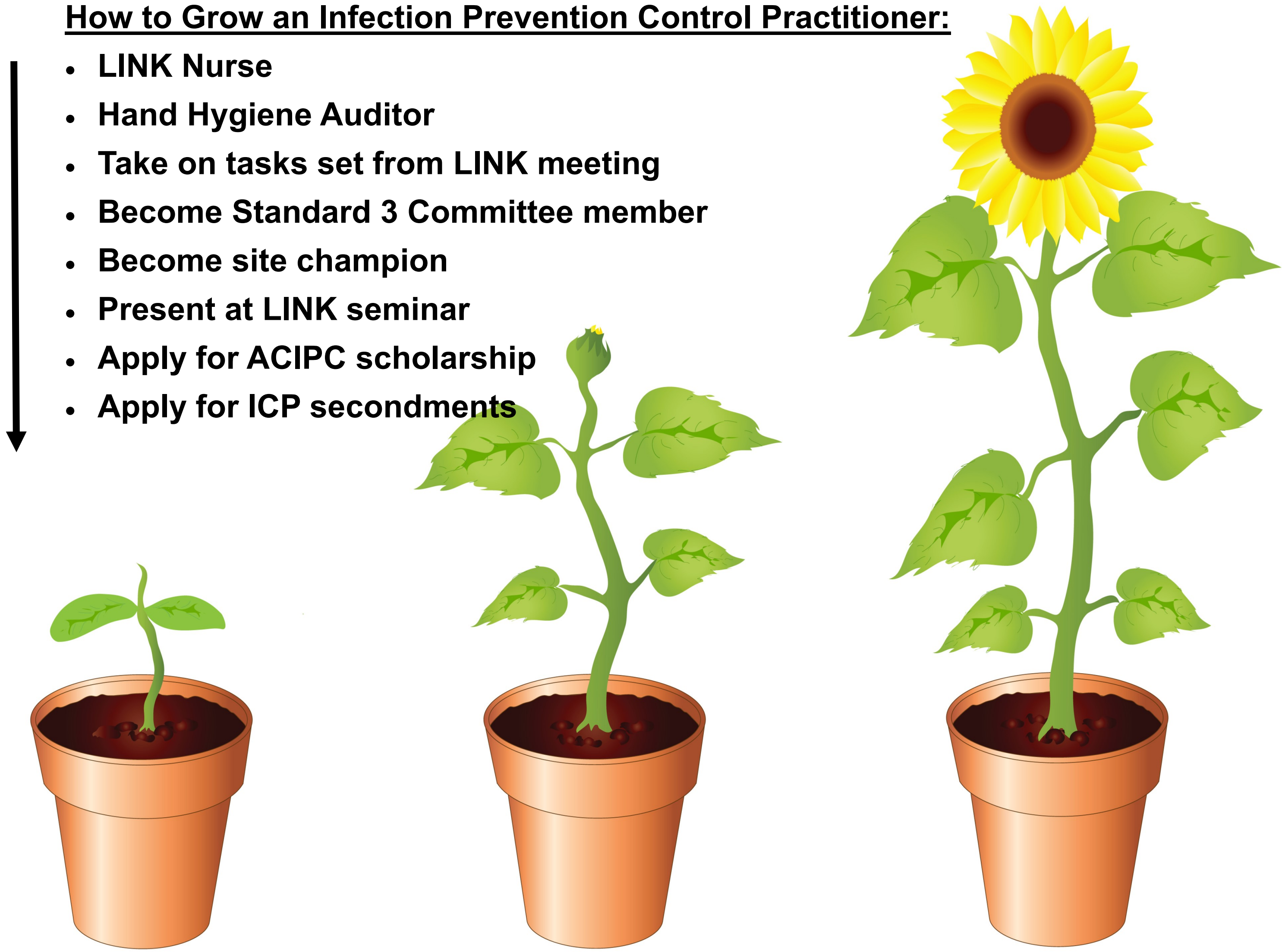
- It is imperative that all infection prevention and control services possess a succession plan and ensure that there is availability of leave relief.
- This is an account of the process of the evolving role from a Primary Health Nurse (PHN), in the Community, to a relieving infection prevention and control practitioner in both acute and non-acute settings.

Methods:

- Reflective practice is a fundamental component of effective personal and professional development.
- This framework was utilised to identify important aspects of the transition from PHN to a relieving infection prevention and control practitioner.
- A qualitative study using semi-structured interviews of three infection prevention and control Clinical Nurse Consultants was attended.
- This enabled the exploration of the experience of the infection prevention and control perspective, and thus identified benefits in relation to the transition and secondment.

How to Grow an Infection Prevention Control Practitioner:

- LINK Nurse
- Hand Hygiene Auditor
- Take on tasks set from LINK meeting
- Become Standard 3 Committee member
- Become site champion
- Present at LINK seminar
- Apply for ACIPC scholarship
- Apply for ICP secondments



Results:

- The journey from novice to relieving infection prevention and control practitioner is divided into two distinct phases.
- The initial phase involves the development and progression of the novice within their current workplace.
- The second phase involves the crucial mentoring role during the secondment.

Semi-structured Interviews of Infection Management and Control Service:

- Infection prevention and control position only backfilled if there is more than 3 weeks leave.
- The type of induction, duties and expectations is dependent on whether the secondment is short term or long term.

Short Term: ward service, audits, surveillance, MRO management.

Long Term: induction programme with expected duties. Week by week list of expected outcomes for 3 months. Manage a major project e.g. "sign off" on a large piece of equipment, policy review.

How to spot a budding Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner:

- Sensible, has reasonable understanding of infection control concepts.
- Shown leadership and initiative in their workplace.
- LINK Nurse.
- The "questioning one".

Resources that Enable the Leap:

- Unique structure of the Infection Management and Control Service (IMACS), which incorporates the infectious diseases physicians, ensures every secondee works with an infection prevention and control person or within close contact.
 - The IMACS Mission statement.
- The IMACS Standard Operations Practice Manual: detailed comprehensive step-by-step manual.

Conclusion:

By creating opportunities and capitalising on the individual strengths of the budding infection prevention and control practitioner, the mentoring process will allow for a solid succession plan and the provision and availability of leave relief. This is vitally important for a healthy infection and prevention and control team.



References :

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