

Challenges and Joys of a Student and new IPC Lead – Tips for Success

By Abrehet Gebremedhin

There are no disclosures for conflict of interest



About Me



- Country of birth – Ethiopia, Tigray
- Family
- Journey to Australia-2010
- University in Australia- UNISA
- Career in Aged Care-New Grad RN

The Opportunity, Expectation and Reality

- The ACIPC Course and IPC Lead role
- Invitation to take on:
 - Sold as a minimal course and role
 - Expectation of little course work and role responsibility
- Scenario reality:
 - 5-month (level 8) course
 - High valued and knowledgeable role
 - Requirement for accreditation



The Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control (FIPC)



EDUCATION

Foundations of IPC

The ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course provides a valuable pathway for IPC learning and is an important resource for those wishing to pursue a career as an Infection Control Professional.

- A pathway:
 - AQF8 level -a pathway to credentialling and further study.
- The FIPC course responsibilities:
 - To prepare IPC leads for the IPC roles
 - To enhance aged care industry IPC knowledge
- The importance of the IPC lead undertaking the FIPC course:
 - Obtain / strengthen individual IPC knowledge and confidence
 - Provide teams with IPC knowledge
 - Enhance knowledge where there was not a previous focus

The Benefits of the FIPC Course

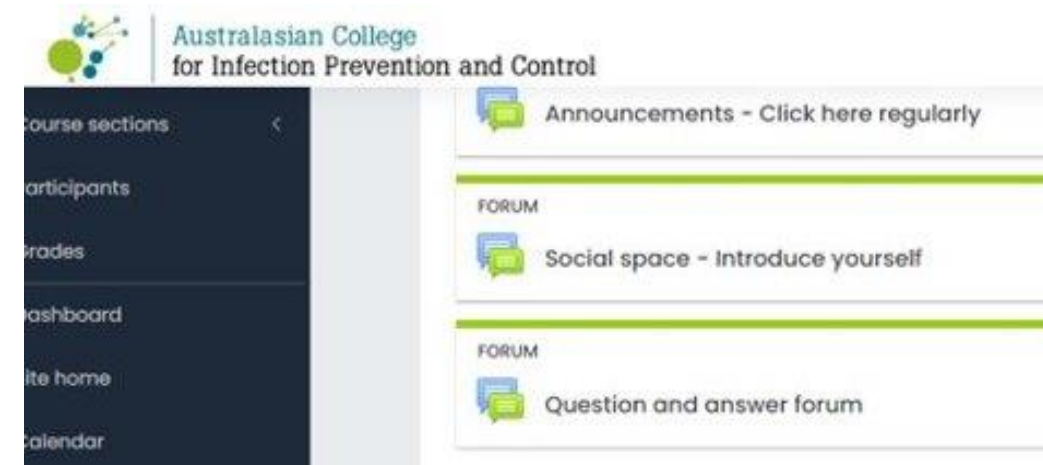
- IPC knowledge and understanding
 - Identify /prevention infection risks
 - Develop IPC and risk assessment
- Development of a role model
 - Sharing IPC knowledge into the facility/industry
 - Lead by example
- Overcoming challenges
 - Capacity to learn from challenges
 - Multitasking
 - Juggling risk decisions
- Highlights of knowledge
 - Where to locate and how to use guidelines, standards, resources
 - Link theory (evidence based) with practice
 - Collaboration with other IPC leads essential

IPC Student Support Experience - Tips

- Support to complete Foundation of IPC
 - Course facilitator, course resources and students
 - Organisation IPC Consultant
 - Organisation Intranet IPC resources
 - Established monthly organisation IPC lead workshop
 - Monthly organisation IPC education - varied topics
- Dedicated time-study leave
- Dedicated time to attend workshop and IPC education
- Supportive Manager with buy in

Overlapping RN & Student Role - Tricks

- Whole new world:
 - New to: nursing, RN, aged care and IPC study
- Supportive Manager and team – made it possible
- Capacity to manage all:
 - Complete the online modules before the course start
 - Complete course before taking on IPC lead role
- The benefit working & studying:
 - IPC Lead role planning
 - Participation in IPC workshops
 - Early completion IPC lead documentation/requirements
 - Establish links with other IPC lead students



Establishing the IPC Lead Support for Success: Tips and Tricks

ACIPC Forums

- Ask questions -be willing to learn ongoing
- Access support networks:
 - IPC lead workshops (organisation, external providers, PHU)
 - Online chat/forums - Aged Care ACIPC
 - Continue networks with fellow students
 - Regular meetings with managers – buy in and enable actions
 - Maintain ongoing IPC education (internal, external, online)
 - Subscribe to IPC national, state and local email updates

- Aged Care IPC Leads Forum

Our Aged Care IPC Leads Forum is a new web-based forum allowing aged care IPC leads to participate in a community of practice with colleagues in aged care and in the broader IPC community.

Establishing the IPC Lead Role in the Facility: Tips and Tricks

- Establish:
 - Log leads details into Aged Care Portal
 - Name badge – identify the role, Photo in facility – who is who



Establishing the IPC Lead Role in the Facility: Tips and Tricks

- Establish:
 - Organisation guide on how to establish the IPC lead role
 - A role description- based on facility needs and IPC lead ability/capacity
 - Communication pathway- how IPC issues get to the IPC lead
 - An IPC lead folder index of IPC evidence
 - Role orientation – introduce role to the team, residents/families, GPs etc
 - Meeting agenda -Permanent IPC section – staff, resident and families, MAC etc

Establishing the Infection Control Lead Role (ICL)

Introduction

There are 7 parts to establishing and setting up the Infection Control Lead (ICL) role:

1. Quality Standard requirement
2. Choosing the right person for the role
3. Education requirements
4. Submission to aged Care Portal and consent
5. Role requirements, task list and
6. Ongoing education and support
7. Evidence of role actions

1. Infection Control Leads a Quality Standard requirement in all residential care homes

- Standard 3, specifically Requirement (3)(g) regarding minimisation of infection control risks
- Standard 7, specifically Requirement (3) (c) regarding the workforce competency and holding relevant qualifications and knowledge
- Standard 8, specifically Requirement (3)(c) regarding effective workforce governance systems,

Role Information

Link: [Infection-prevention-and-control-leads](#)

ACIPC Resources

Link: [acipc resources](#)

2. Qualities of the ICL

Qualities for considerations in the ICL role:

- Works currently at the single site and over at least 4 days (night duty does not work- less days does not provide the ongoing IC cover)
- RN/EN (very difficult for EN)
- Able to complete a level 8 course – this is at Master's level
- Can meet the Arcare ICL Duties

Infection Control Lead Duties

The following tasks fall within this position's responsibilities:

Daily

- ☐ Is a dedicated ICL to the residence
- ☐ Act as a resource and mentor to all staff on issues related to infection prevention and control at floor level
- ☐ Is the residence key infection control contact
- ☐ Have knowledge of Aged Care Quality Standard 3 (3)(g) and 8 (3) (d) (e) and applying
- ☐ Visit all areas of residence to oversee that standard infection prevention and control practices are being carried out in accordance with written Arcare and State/Australian Guidelines.
- ☐ Initiate and maintain communication with staff and shares information, elicit feedback, and encourage participation in infection control precautions
- ☐ Feed's infection control concerns to Residence Manager (RM) and National Infection Control Specialist (NICS)

Specialized tasks

- ☐ Provides support regarding the assessment, planning implementation, documentation, and evaluation of transmission precautions of infectious clients, carriers of multi-resistant organisms or those in quarantine
- ☐ Attend/assists with delegated infection control related audits (i.e., national audit schedule – i.e., cleaning, waste, infection control) and monthly residence infection stats
- ☐ Assists with rolling out action plan/change processes in accordance to audit outcomes as delegated by Clinical lead) CL/RM
- ☐ Assists CL/RM with outbreak preparation (including outbreak supply), management, and reflective reviews.

Infection Control Lead Communication Framework

Feedback on the identification of infection control issues should be welcomed by everyone. A process to escalate this, review and action is required. The following framework will provide a suggestion to do this, however there will be other ways and individual facility needs must be factored.

- Awareness to whom is the Infection Prevention and Control Lead (IPCL) is required across the facility – this includes all team members, residents/representatives. Information on the role, who it is and contact information (email/phone) can be addressed in meetings, written communications and 'staff who is who' wall photos.
- Where infection control issues are identified, they are escalated to the IPCL via phone, in person or email.
- Issues are then listed in a facility Infection, prevention and control action plan. An example of an action plan is below and enables a process for review, action, follow up and sign off.
- Ongoing monthly or second monthly IPCL meeting are held with the Facility Manager to ensure progression of the action plan, oversight and assistance.
- The running action plan will provide evidence of practice change and continuous improvement in infection prevention and control
- The action plan also demonstrates the activities and actions undertaken by the IPCL and can assist with determining needed time in the IPCL role

Infection Control Lead Folder

Record of evidence:

Infection Prevention & Control Index

1. **JD:** Arcare ICL role description
2. **Qualification:** ACIPC certificate – Foundation Course, Online National IPC training
3. **Consent:** Signed Consent for Aged Care Portal
4. **ICL education attendance register:** Monthly National Infection Control education sessions (varied topics) and monthly ICL workshop attendance.
5. **Minutes:** (IPC associated meetings, ICL and RM meetings, MAC participation etc)
6. **IPC scheduled training onsite by ICL:** to mirror National Infection Control education schedule and any other training required

IPC Action Plan

- Accreditation evidence
- Change process:
 - Identification, action, outcome
 - Follow up and closure
- Safer environment



PLAN FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT – INFECTION CONTROL

Sample

Commencement date:	2023
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Facility name:						
Provider name:						
Standard/Requirement	Matter for improvement	Actions Required /Evaluation Process	Responsible	Progress Report	Date	Status
Hand Hygiene	Staffs are observed that they are not washing their hands and not coving all the step-in washing hands. They are not washing their hands for 40 to 60 seconds.	1. Education of the important of hand hygiene and how to perform of hand hygiene. 2. Hand hygiene competent to identify and provide one to one education.	ICL- Manager	Hand hygiene poster near sink of how to wash hands and what includes of washing hands.	2/11/2023	Progress
Cleaning equipment	Staffs observed that they are not cleaning equipment between residents. It is important cleaning equipment after each use to reduce the bioburden of microorganisms.	Staffs need to get education of the importance of cleaning equipment. Promote what happen when equipment is not cleaned.	ICL- Manager	Monitoring an audit to determine when it been missed and when be cleaned. Then continue with monthly review.	2/11/2023	Progress
Linen Skips	1. Staffs are observed that they place dirty linen are placed in the placed on the floor 2. It was witnessed that staffs are overfill linen bags and emptying it on ¾ full this increase contamination with microorganisms	ICL- it will plan education about linen skip management with policy and guidelines. ICL- will also prepare set times for the linen skips per shift to reduce the spread of microorganisms and prevent injuries.	ICL- Manager	ICL- will be reviewing and evaluate this standard in month until it has improved.	2/11/2023	Progress
4, Hand sanitizer	Staffs are not covering all over the hands and missing the 5 moment of hand hygiene. It is important staffs to know how to apply hand sanitizer.	ICL- will display hand sanitizer poster near the sanitizer to promote how to apply hand sanitizer.	ICL- Manager	Will review this in a month as it is important for all the staffs to have the habit and reduce cross contamination.	2/11/2023	Progress

The End Result

- We are the point of change
- Implementing IPC into the aged care industry
- This is a hugely exciting time



THANK YOU

Abrehet Gebremedhin



ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Driving
forward:*

EMBRACING
FUNDAMENTALS
& CHARTING
A PATH FOR
THE FUTURE

12-15
NOV 23

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