



Challenges and Joys of an IPC Lead – Tips for Success

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Declarations:

Nil



IPC Lead Role



- New role created in a time of many unknowns
- My setting: Alpine Health in Northeast Victoria
- Interest in IPC
- Acute & Residential Care
- IPC Lead Nurse 0.1 EFT & 0.7 Endorsed Enrolled Nurse
- ACIPC “Foundations of Infection Prevention & Control” course.

Challenges: Masks

- Adherence to mask wearing!
- Fit testing
- Ongoing Education
- Staff compliance
- Highlighting the protective factors of mask wearing.
- Audit results helped to show the issues

Green

Green

% score for compliance

Overall Mask Compliance

Bare Below Elbows

Total number of yes answers

x 100 =

Total number of yes and no answers

.

81 %

100%

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| N= RN, EN | P= PCA | E=Essential Services | AH= allied health contractors/podiatrists |
| Dr = Doctor | C= contractors (trades) | A = Admin | |

Challenges: Shifting the mindset



-It's a home, but its also a healthcare facility



Challenges: Hand Hygiene & PPE



- Normalising HH & PPE into workflows
- Audits showed missing HH moments
 - Time poor/staff shortages
- On the spot education
- Mandatory face to face education

Challenges: IPC days

- Being swapped back onto the floor when staff shortage – losing days
- Being used for non-IPC lead work when on IPC lead day “can you just give me a quick hand....”
- Extra Workload!
- Introducing IPC Uniform! ~ Tip for Success!



Despite the challenges, there have been many joys.



- Structured program to follow
- Ongoing Support
- Attending Organisation & Networking meetings
 - Alpine Health IPC Committee
 - Hume's health district "IPAC Network" meetings
 - Education/training to take back to the workplace
- ACIPC conference!

More joys...

- Auditing – getting creative with the results!
- Education & awareness on antibiotic usage
- Reducing infections within Residential Care
- The role itself!

Attention Nursing Staff!

Sharps containers are for Sharps ONLY.



Not Empty Potato Chip Packets or Paper Medication
Cups and Wooden Spoons



Not Empty Medication Packets or
Packaging from S8 Patches

Nursing Staff to Ensure that Sharp Containers are replaced when
full!

What the IPC Lead Role has given me:

- New Opportunities
- Extending IPC knowledge
- Help with the improvement of IPC practices within the workplace



THANK YOU

Special thanks : To Kelly Barton