Infection Prevention Research Should Drive Infection Prevention And Control (IPC) Practices

The Affirmative Team

Patricia Ching Tai Yin

WHO CC

SPH, HKU

Hong Kong SAR China

Research identifies the most effective strategies and helps create evidence-based guidelines, which in turn *improve patient safety and reduce the spread of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).*

How research influences IPC practices?

Research influences IPC practices

- **Develops evidence-based guidelines:**

  Research findings are used to create and update best practice guidelines, such as the standard precautions that all healthcare workers must follow. This ensures that interventions are based on what is proven to be effective.

- **Informs new strategies:**

  Studies identify new threats and the most effective ways to combat them, driving innovations in both clinical and research settings. For example, research has shown the importance of multimodal strategies for implementation, like those promoted by the **World Health Organization**.

Research influences IPC practices

- **Evaluates the effectiveness of current practices:** Ongoing research evaluates the effectiveness of existing IPC programs and practices, providing crucial data on what is working and what needs improvement. This helps organizations to prioritize resources and implement changes that are impactful.
- **Addresses emerging challenges:** Research is vital for addressing new and evolving challenges, such as the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and the specific needs of different care settings.

Research influences IPC practices

- **Improves implementation and compliance:**

  Research helps to understand barriers to compliance with evidence-based practices and develop strategies to overcome them, ensuring that guidelines are not just created but also effectively implemented by staff.

Research is crucial for guiding infection control because:

- provides evidence for new prevention strategies
- helps update guidelines to combat emerging threats like antibiotic resistance
- allows for continuous improvement of patient outcomes and safety.
- moves practices from basic standards to adaptive, evidence-based protocols that reduce infections, improve patient health, and lower healthcare costs

- **Reduces infections and improves outcomes:**

  Research identifies the most effective ways to prevent the spread of infections, which directly leads to lower rates of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), improved patient survival, and reduced morbidity.

- **Combats emerging threats:**

  It helps develop strategies to address evolving challenges, such as the spread of multidrug-resistant organisms, which requires updated guidelines and new approaches beyond basic standards.

- **Improves patient and staff safety:**

  Research informs the best practices for everything from hand hygiene to the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), creating a safer environment for both patients and healthcare workers.

- **Drives continuous improvement:**

  By tracking data and evaluating outcomes, research allows for the refinement of infection control programs. This includes identifying factors that influence infections and adjusting strategies based on evidence, rather than tradition.

- **Justifies and updates guidelines:**

  Research provides the scientific basis for establishing and regularly updating infection control guidelines. This ensures that practices remain relevant and effective as new knowledge becomes available.

- **Contributes to quality healthcare:**

  Effective infection control is a cornerstone of quality healthcare. Research ensures that the practices are evidence-based and contribute to the overall quality of care and the efficiency of the healthcare system.

- **Supports antibiotic stewardship:**

  Research is essential for developing and implementing effective antibiotic stewardship programs to combat antimicrobial resistance, a critical component of modern infection control.

Key areas where research is essential

- **Understanding transmission:** Research helps clarify how pathogens spread in different healthcare environments, leading to more precise and effective prevention measures.
- **Improving PPE and cleaning methods:** Studies guide the selection of the most effective disinfectants and the development of optimal protocols for cleaning and decontamination.

Key areas where research is essential

- **Optimizing program structure:** Research is needed to define ideal IPC program components, such as staffing levels and required certifications, to ensure robust and reliable programs across all care settings.

- **Monitoring and surveillance:** Research helps develop and improve surveillance systems for tracking HAIs, which allows for timely intervention when problems arise.

Thank You!!!