



The Joint Commission

Accreditation Program: Laboratory
Infection Prevention and Control

Standard IC.01.01.01

The laboratory identifies the individual(s) responsible for managing infection prevention and control for laboratory services.

Rationale for IC.01.01.01

The infection prevention and control program requires management by an individual (or individuals) with knowledge that is appropriate to the level of identified risks, as well as knowledge of the analysis of infection risks, principles of infection prevention and control, and data analysis. The individual(s) may be employed or under contract. The laboratory's size, complexity, and structure (laboratories that are independent organizations, not owned by or affiliated with a health care organization, such as reference laboratories) may influence the number of individuals required and their qualifications in infection prevention and control.

Elements of Performance for IC.01.01.01

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| 3. | Laboratory leaders assign responsibility for the management of infection prevention and control activities for laboratory services.
(See also LD.04.05.03, EP 1)
Note: Number and skill mix of the individual(s) assigned should be determined by the goals and objectives of the infection prevention and control program. | A |
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Standard IC.01.02.01

Laboratory leaders designate laboratory resources needed to support the organization-wide infection prevention and control activities.

Elements of Performance for IC.01.02.01

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| 1. | The laboratory provides access to laboratory-related information needed to support the organization-wide infection prevention and control program. (See also IM.02.02.03, EP 2) | A |
| 3. | The laboratory provides equipment and supplies for the laboratory services needed to support the organization-wide infection prevention and control program. | A |

Standard IC.01.03.01

The laboratory identifies its risks for acquiring and transmitting infections.

Elements of Performance for IC.01.03.01

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| 2. | The laboratory identifies its infection risks based on the laboratory services it provides. | A |
| 5. | (D) The laboratory prioritizes its identified risks for acquiring and transmitting infections. These prioritized risks are documented. | A |

Standard IC.01.04.01

Based on its identified risks, the laboratory sets goals to minimize the possibility of transmitting infections.

Note: See NPSG.07.01.01 for hand hygiene guidelines.

Elements of Performance for IC.01.04.01

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| 1. | Ⓓ The laboratory's written infection prevention and control goals are based on its prioritized risks. | A |
| 2. | Ⓓ The laboratory's written infection prevention and control goals include the following: Limiting unprotected exposure to pathogens. | A |
| 3. | Ⓓ The laboratory's written infection prevention and control goals include the following: Limiting the transmission of infections associated with procedures. | A |
| 4. | Ⓓ The laboratory's written infection prevention and control goals include the following: Limiting the transmission of infections associated with the use of laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies. | A |
| 5. | Ⓓ The laboratory's written infection prevention and control goals include the following: Improving compliance with hand hygiene guidelines. (See also NPSG.07.01.01, EP 1) | A |

Standard IC.01.05.01

The organization plans for preventing and controlling infections associated with laboratory services.

Elements of Performance for IC.01.05.01

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| 1. | When developing its infection prevention and control activities, the laboratory uses evidence-based national guidelines or, in the absence of such guidelines, expert consensus.
Footnote: For further information regarding standard precautions, refer to the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at http://www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/biosfty/bmb15/bmb15toc.htm , and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Blood Borne Pathogen Act (29 CFR 1910.1030) at http://www.osha.gov . | A |
| 2. | Ⓓ The laboratory plans infection prevention and control activities, including surveillance, to minimize, reduce, or eliminate the risk of infection associated with laboratory services. The description of these planned activities is documented.
Note: These infection prevention and control activities may be planned by the laboratory and/or by an affiliated organization that includes the laboratory. | A |
| 3. | Ⓓ The laboratory describes in writing its method for evaluating the infection prevention and control activities associated with its laboratory services. | A |
| 6. | All laboratory components and functions are integrated into the organization-wide infection prevention and control activities. (See also HR.01.04.01, EPs 2 and 4) | A |

KEY: A indicates scoring category A; C indicates scoring category C; ▲ indicates situational decision rules apply; ▲ indicates direct impact requirements apply; M indicates Measure of Success if needed; Ⓓ indicates that documentation is required

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| 7. | The laboratory has a method for communicating responsibilities about preventing and controlling infection to staff, visitors, and patients. (See also IC.02.01.01, EP 7)
Note: The opportunity to prevent or control infections may encompass a range of activities (for example, while transporting specimens, wearing laboratory coats, or collecting specimens outside of the organization). | A |
| 8. | The laboratory identifies methods for reporting or supporting the reporting of infection surveillance, prevention, and control information to local, state, and federal public health authorities in accordance with law and regulation. | A |

Standard IC.01.06.01

The organization prepares to respond to an increased number of potentially infectious patients or patient specimens.

Rationale for IC.01.06.01

The laboratory is an important resource for the continued functioning of a community. A laboratory's ability to deliver services is threatened when it is ill-prepared to respond to an epidemic or infections likely to require expanded or extended care capabilities over a prolonged period. Therefore, it is important to quickly recognize that existing patients have become infected, plan how to prevent the introduction of the infection into the laboratory, and contain the risk or spread of the infection.

Elements of Performance for IC.01.06.01

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| 3. | The laboratory has a method for communicating critical information to licensed independent practitioners and staff about emerging infections that could cause an increase in the number of infectious patients or patient specimens handled. | A |
| 4. | D The laboratory plans how it will respond to an increased number of potentially infectious patients or patient specimens. This plan is documented. (See also EM.01.01.01, EP 2)
Footnote: A response plan may include accessing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Laboratory Response Network (LRN) at http://www.bt.cdc.gov/lrn/ for information and guidance. | A |
| 5. | D If the organization decides to accept an increased number of potentially infectious patients or patient specimens, then the laboratory describes in writing its methods for managing laboratory services for these patients or specimens over an extended period of time. | A |
| 6. | When the organization determines it is necessary, the laboratory activates its response to an increased number of potentially infectious patients or patient specimens. | A |




Standard IC.02.01.01



The laboratory implements its infection prevention and control activities.

Elements of Performance for IC.02.01.01

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| 1. | The laboratory implements its planned infection prevention and control activities, including surveillance, to minimize, reduce, or eliminate the risk of infection. | C |
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KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C; **2** indicates situational decision rules apply; **3** indicates direct impact requirements apply; **M** indicates Measure of Success if needed; **D** indicates that documentation is required

- M** 2. The laboratory uses standard precautions, including the use of personal protective equipment, to reduce the risk of infection. Note: Standard precautions are infection prevention and control measures to protect against possible exposure to infectious agents. These precautions are general and applicable to all patients and patient specimens. Footnote: For further information regarding standard precautions, refer to the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/> (Infection Control in Healthcare Settings) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Blood Borne Pathogen Act at <http://www.osha.gov>.  **C**
- M** 3. The laboratory implements transmission-based precautions in response to the pathogens that are suspected or identified within the organization's service setting and community. (See also EC.02.02.01, EP 3) Note: Transmission-based precautions are infection prevention and control measures to protect against exposure to a suspected or identified pathogen. These precautions are specific and based on the way the pathogen is transmitted. Transmission-based precautions include contact, droplet, airborne, or a combination of these precautions. Footnote: For further information regarding transmission-based precautions, refer to the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/> (Infection Control in Healthcare Settings).  **C**
6. The laboratory minimizes the risk of infection when storing and disposing of infectious waste. (See also EC.02.02.01, EP 1)  **C**
- M** 7. The laboratory implements its methods to communicate responsibilities for preventing and controlling infection to staff, visitors, and patients. (See also HR.01.04.01, EP 4; IC.01.05.01, EP 7) **C**
- M** 8. The laboratory reports infection surveillance, prevention, and control information to laboratory staff consistent with their responsibilities for infection prevention and control activities. **C**
9. The laboratory reports or supports the reporting of infection surveillance, prevention, and control information and reportable diseases to local, state, and federal public health authorities, in accordance with law and regulation. (See also IC.03.01.01, EP 6) **A**

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Standard IC.02.02.01

The laboratory reduces the risk of infections associated with laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies.

Rationale for IC.02.02.01

People are at risk of developing an infection from contact with laboratory equipment, devices, or supplies. Failure to properly clean, disinfect, or sterilize, and use or store, laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies poses the risk for person-to-person transmission of infections.

There are numerous steps involved in the cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilizing of laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies. It is critical that health care workers follow standardized practices to minimize infection risks related to laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies. In order to maintain a reliable system for controlling this process, organizations pay attention to the following:

- Orientation, training, and competency of health care workers who are processing laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies
- Levels of staffing and supervision of the health care workers who are processing laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies
- Standardization of process regardless of whether it is centralized or decentralized
- Reinforcing the process (for example, the use of placards which list the steps to be followed, according to manufacturers' guidelines)
- Ongoing quality monitoring

Elements of Performance for IC.02.02.01

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| M | <p>1. The laboratory implements infection prevention and control activities when doing the following: Cleaning and performing low-level disinfection of laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies.</p> <p>Note: Low-level disinfection is used for items such as blood glucose meters. Additional cleaning and disinfecting is required for laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies used by patients who are isolated as part of implementing transmission-based precautions.</p> <p>Footnote: For further information regarding cleaning and performing low-level disinfection of medical equipment, devices, and supplies, refer to the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/sterile.html (Sterilization and Disinfection in Healthcare Settings).</p> | 3 | C |
| M | <p>2. The laboratory implements infection prevention and control activities when doing the following: Performing intermediate and high-level disinfection and sterilization of laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies. (See also EC.02.04.03, EP 4)</p> <p>Note: High-level disinfection is used for items such as respiratory equipment and specula. Sterilization is used for items such as implants and surgical instruments. High-level disinfection may also be used if sterilization is not possible, as is the case with flexible endoscopes.</p> <p>Footnote: For further information regarding performing intermediate and high-level disinfection of medical equipment, devices, and supplies, refer to the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/sterile.html (Sterilization and Disinfection in Healthcare Settings).</p> | 3 | A |
| M | <p>3. The laboratory implements infection prevention and control activities when doing the following: Disposing of laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies.</p> | 3 | A |
| M | <p>4. The laboratory implements infection prevention and control activities when doing the following: Storing laboratory equipment, devices, and supplies.</p> | | C |

KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C; **2** indicates situational decision rules apply; **3** indicates direct impact requirements apply; **M** indicates Measure of Success if needed; **D** indicates that documentation is required

Standard IC.02.03.01

The organization works to prevent the transmission of infectious disease among patients and staff.

Elements of Performance for IC.02.03.01

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| M | 1. The organization makes screening for exposure and/or immunity to infectious disease available to staff who may come in contact with infections at the workplace. | C |
| M | 2. When staff have, or are suspected of having, an infectious disease that puts others at risk, the organization provides them with or refers them for assessment and potential testing, prophylaxis/treatment, or counseling. | C |
| | 3. When staff have been occupationally exposed to an infectious disease, the organization provides them with or refers them for assessment and potential testing, prophylaxis/treatment, or counseling. | A |

Standard IC.03.01.01

The laboratory evaluates the effectiveness of its infection prevention and control activities.

Elements of Performance for IC.03.01.01

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| | 1. The laboratory evaluates its infection prevention and control activities annually and whenever risks significantly change.
Note: Consideration should be given to emerging and re-emerging infections in the community that could potentially affect laboratory services. | A |
| | 2. The evaluation includes a review of the following: The infection prevention and control prioritized risks associated with laboratory services. | A |
| | 3. The evaluation includes a review of the following: The infection prevention and control goals associated with laboratory services. (See also NPSG.07.01.01, EP 2) | A |
| | 4. The evaluation includes a review of the following: Implementation of the infection prevention and control activities for laboratory services. | A |
| | 6. Findings from the evaluation are communicated at least annually to the individuals or interdisciplinary group that manages the patient safety program. (See also IC.02.01.01, EP 9) | A |
| | 7. The laboratory uses the findings of its evaluation of its infection prevention and control activities when revising its planned approach for preventing and controlling infections associated with laboratory services. | A |

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