

Purpose

This policy outlines the composition and essential functions of the Medical Center/Children's Hospital Infection Control Committee. A competent and active infection control committee is an essential component of the infection prevention program by authorizing and directing the activities of the Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control (HEIC), communicating policy, surveillance, monitoring, educational and problem resolution issues and information to the Medical Center/Children's Hospital committees and departments, and acting as liaison to department leaders.

Procedure

A. Function

- a. The Committee meets at least every two months.
- b. There is a planned agenda for each meeting.
- c. Minutes are written, and kept with attachments in the HEIC office.
- d. The committee reviews infection surveillance results, identifies and recommends strategies to reduce infection risks.
- e. The committee develops, recommends, reviews and sets policies for appropriate medical staff committees, hospital administration and personnel.
- f. Informs department leaders of their responsibility for implementing policies.

B. Membership and department representation

The Infection Control Committee is a medical staff committee, chaired by a physician with training and interest in hospital epidemiology and infection prevention. Membership includes representation from the Medical Staff, Medical Center Administration, Department of Nursing, ancillary departments and HEIC. The committee members may include representatives of the following departments:

a. Active

- i. Clinical Laboratory/Microbiology
- ii. Critical Care Medicine
- iii. Division of Infectious Diseases
- iv. Emergency Services
- v. Environmental Health and Safety
- vi. Facilities Management
- vii. HEIC
- viii. Hospitality Services
- ix. Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute
- x. Materiel Services
- xi. Medicine
- xii. Nursing
- xiii. Occupational Health Services
- xiv. Pediatrics
- xv. Perioperative Services
- xvi. Pharmacy
- xvii. Quality Improvement
- xviii. Respiratory Therapy

b. Consultative

- i. Fellows in Infectious Diseases Training Program

C. Lines of communication

The Infection Control Committee is a subcommittee of the Quality Improvement Executive Committee of the Executive Medical Board.

D. Authority

The Infection Control Committee Chair has the authority to institute appropriate control measures or studies when there is considered to be a danger to patients or personnel.

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