

Session 2: Introduction to Cultural Sensitivity and Infection Prevention & Control Infrastructure

Key Takeaways:

- Cultural sensitivity is being aware that cultural differences and similarities between people exist without assigning them a value – positive or negative – and knowing that they influence values, learning, and behavior.
- Cultural sensitivity is also a set of skills that allows you to understand and learn about people whose cultural background is not the same as your own.
- An effective infection prevention and control (IPC) program aims to reduce healthcare associated infections (HAI), address emerging infections and pathogens, and improve patient safety.
- IPC programs require infrastructure, including policies and procedures, annual risk assessment, prioritized interventions, surveillance, trained staff, and committed leadership.
- Health equity and cultural sensitivity principles are critical considerations in the development of IPC policies and activities.

Key Concepts:

Culture, beliefs, and values	Culture is the shared beliefs, practices, and material objects of a group of people. Values are a culture's standard for discerning what is good and just in society. Beliefs are tenets or convictions that people hold to be true.
Cultural sensitivity spectrum	The stages of cultural sensitivity that a person may experience are denial, defense, minimization, acceptance, adaptation, and integration.
IPC Program Goals and Activities	Bryant KA, Harris AD, Gould CV, Humphreys E, Lundstrom T, Murphy DM, Olmsted R, Oriola S, Zerr D. Necessary Infrastructure of Infection Prevention and Healthcare Epidemiology Programs: A Review . Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol. 2016 Apr;37(4):371-80. doi: 10.1017/ice.2015.333. Epub 2016 Feb 1. PMID: 26832072; PMCID: PMC6481289.
	CDC Website: Infection Control Assessment Tools
	CDC Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care . Version 2.3. September 2016.
IPC Support in Occupational Health	CDC Website: Infection Control in Healthcare Personnel
State IPC Resources	UNMC ICAP/ASAP Program Website
	UNMC Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Website
	DHHS HAI Program Website
	NE Medicine COVID Resources for Providers

Further Reading:

Introduction to Sociology: Module 3: Culture – Cultures, Values, and Beliefs:

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/wm-introductiontosociology/chapter/values-and-beliefs/>

Video - Bennett's Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (DMIS):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vKRFH2Wm6Y>

Givler A, Bhatt H, Maani-Fogelman PA. [The Importance Of Cultural Competence in Pain and Palliative Care](#). [Updated 2021 Jul 26]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2021 January.

[CDC Infection Control Guidance for healthcare professionals about Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[CDC Infection Control Guidelines and Guidance Library](#)