

The IPC Champion Role in adult social care settings

The role of the IPC Champion

The IPC Champion role presents the opportunity to develop and enhance your knowledge of infection prevention and control, network with other teams, participate in auditing, planning events, poster presentations and support with education within your setting.

The IPC Champion will be a member of the care team who has an interest and commitment to promoting excellent standards of infection prevention and control in their workplace, for example, a nurse, allied health professional, health care assistant, support worker, carer or manager.

The IPC Champion should possess excellent interpersonal skills, have the capacity to motivate and encourage their colleagues to follow good practice, and the ability to challenge inappropriate practice in an assertive yet sensitive manner. They should have a willingness to work with others as part of a multi-disciplinary approach to IPC predominately the Local Infection Prevention and Control Service.

More than one IPC Champion can be identified within the setting.

Commitment

- Attendance at champion meetings held quarterly (a deputy or more than one IPC Champion is recommended for larger settings)
- Ensure infection control is a regular agenda item at their team meetings
- 1-2 hours of infection control activity in your setting per month (audit, survey, staff quiz, staff training etc)
- Keeping up to date and supporting staff to keep up to date with IPC guidance, policies, initiatives

Responsibilities

- To attend a minimum of 3 IPC Champion meetings per year, ensuring feedback is given to colleagues.
- To act as a role model by promoting best practice within IPC.
- To take every opportunity to update and extend their own knowledge of IPC and share this with staff
- To be aware of IPC policies and procedures within the setting
- To assist in the education of staff within your setting in relation to IPC.
- To support the manager in monitoring the implementation of actions following IPC audit and feedback to staff
- Support and complete local audits such as hand hygiene, sharp safety and PPE
- Where necessary, to assist in the education and health promotion of service users in relation to infection and infection prevention
- Maintain good relations with the IPC Service and care setting
- Can identify and escalate to their manager any increase in numbers of infections or linked infections in their care setting which may indicate a possible outbreak of infection
- Displays posters and leaflets to advise staff, service users and their relatives on aspects of infection prevention and control, for example a display to promote a flu campaign and or hand hygiene posters
- Provide updates at staff meetings on IPC issues at the care setting, as well as on new local guidance of which their team needs to be aware.
- To refer to IPC manual where appropriate
- Attend whenever possible IPC training conferences/workshops/seminars/local IPC meetings

Managers Commitment

The manager will need to support their IPC Champion in their role by:

- As far as possible, allowing them protected time and resources (such as the use of a computer for online meetings) to fulfil their responsibilities.
- Meeting with them regularly to discuss any issues arising and being open to address any need for change in practice at the care setting.
- Allowing them a regular slot at team meetings to provide an IPC update.

Progressing through the IPC Champions programme will give you the opportunity to achieve the following competencies (see below). This is a good opportunity to develop and progress within your career or role i.e through revalidation or enhancing your portfolio development

Competency	Performance Criteria	Knowledge and attributes
<p>Acts as role model, local leader and visible advocate for infection prevention and control</p>	<p>Role models the use of local and policy and guidelines. Is visible in the workplace as a resource and champion. Works within own field of competency and is aware of own role limitations. Seeks advice and guidance from IPC team when presented with new or complex situations. Works effectively as team member of the local workplace. Leadership: Is confident in providing feedback to others on their practice. Enables others to challenge practice when standards are not met. Celebrates achievements and best practice. Actively promotes IPC issues. Contributes to local risk assessment and patient safety processes.</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding of: Local and policies, best practice, and evidence-based guidelines for IPC. Effective team working. Understands own competency and limitations. Access professional peer support. Give and receive feedback. Enthuse and motivate others. Celebrate achievements. Undertake a risk assessment. Seek necessary resources when required.</p>
<p>Enables individuals and the team to learn and develop their IPC practice.</p>	<p>Helps implement best practice, local and national standards in their everyday practice. Contributes to a team and workplace culture for learning in relation to IPC. Works with team members who support students/new starters in their learning about IPC. Actively participates in the champion's programme.</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding of: The principles and knowledge base underpinning IPC. The local workplace The role of complaints/ feedback in developing a quality service. Provide creative opportunities for learning Enable learning from incidents/complaints. Participate in and access champions meetings Reflect on practice in a structured way. Enable others to reflect on their practice</p>
<p>Communicates and networks around IPC practice</p>	<p>Acts as a local resource for IPC to all local staff and the infection control team. Liaises with the IPC Service. Develops and uses different methods for communicating IPC knowledge, information, and issues. Provides/receives feedback to/from workplace manager. Signposts best practice and relevant resources. Networking.</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding of the range of methods, opportunities and resources that can be used to communicate IPC knowledge, information and issues with different staff groups, the infection control team and service users – for example, IPC noticeboards, newsletters, blogs, team meetings, websites, e-learning. Knows when and how to provide feedback or challenge and when to access local IPC specialists. Knows how to communicate key messages, expectations and behaviours.</p>

		<p>Can find, access and use evidence-based literature in relation to IPC principles.</p> <p>Knows how to contact the IPC team.</p>
<p>Supports individuals and teams in local review/audit/surveillance</p>	<p>Works with others to collect, analyse and interpret local audit results</p> <p>Facilitates ownership of local review/audit/surveillance activities.</p> <p>Works with others to use local audit/surveillance data to improve practice.</p> <p>Works with others to review local IPC practice</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding of the local quality and safety systems including reporting and audit.</p> <p>Knowledge of audit in relation to IPC standards, the audit, implementing learning from audits and the relationship of IPC audits to other audits.</p> <p>The contribution of complaints (formal and informal) and incident recording in improving practice.</p> <p>Knows how to collect accurate data for audit, and in the event of an outbreak situations.</p> <p>Participate in simple audits.</p> <p>Feedback and explain audit results and their impact to local team.</p> <p>Work with others to implement changes to practice arising from audit and other feedback.</p>