

WHITE PAPER

Navigating The Joint Commission's Updated Infection Prevention Standards for Hospitals

Are you prepared to navigate the new standards? As of July 1, 2024, The Joint Commission’s updated Infection Prevention and Control (IC) requirements are in effect, streamlining the IC chapter for critical access hospitals and hospital accreditation programs. With these updates, healthcare organizations must adopt smarter, more efficient processes to meet the new standards.

Ranked Best in KLAS for Infection Control & Monitoring, [VigiLanz Infection Prevention](#) provides real-time, AI-driven tools to help hospitals stay ahead of these evolving requirements, improve infection containment, and optimize workflows. Learn more about how Inovalon supports these new requirements.

TJC IC Standards and EPs for HAP & CAH	Infection Control Topic	How VigiLanz Infection Prevention Supports
IC.04.01.01 EP 2 The infection preventionist (IP) or infection control professional is responsible for the following: - Development and implementation of hospital wide infection surveillance, prevention, and control policies and procedures that adhere to laws, regulations, and nationally recognized guidelines - Documentation of the infection prevention and control program and its surveillance, prevention, and control activities - Competency-based training and education of hospital staff on infection prevention policies, procedures, and their application	Infection prevention and control program leader and responsibilities	Infection prevention and control program leader responsibilities: - Rule-based artificial intelligence is used to align with facility policies and procedures to alert clinicians in near-real time to streamline their workflows and provide proactive care. - Rules can be created, updated, and deployed to multiple facilities within minutes, eliminating the need to wait for bulk changes to go live. - Comprehensive rounding tools prioritize workflow (patient rounding, cluster tracking tools, hand hygiene, etc.) and quickly provide leadership updates of continuous improvement initiatives. - Enterprise-level reporting and analysis capabilities provide insight into trends. - VigiLanz University (VigiU) provides an on-demand certificate training program for administrators, IPs, and end users. - VigiLanz Infection Prevention saves time for many of the day-to-day tasks of the IP program including activities around surveillance, isolation, reporting, and rounding. Cases are identified faster, interventions occur sooner, and each day is prioritized more effectively, allowing the IP to focus on education, prevention, and patient safety instead of on chart review. - Within the workflow, auditing is an essential component. VigiLanz Infection Prevention tools take this into account with specific workflows for auditing that include evidence-based tools configurable for each hospital/organization, such as the IP daily rounding tool, environment of care (EOC) rounding tool, and hand hygiene audit tool. - Facilities can trend results from rounding over time as well as disseminate rounding results, allowing IPs to identify if rounding processes are making meaningful improvements.



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IC.04.01.01 EP 5 Infection prevention and control program reflects the scope and complexity of the hospital services provided by addressing all locations, patient populations, and staff	Infection prevention and control program is hospital wide	- EHR-agnostic clinical data is captured from sources across acute care, ambulatory, and other healthcare settings so that rule-based artificial intelligence can be continually applied hospitalwide. - Configurable rules continually run in the background to provide real-time clinical surveillance and intervention alerts to help clinicians streamline their workflows and provide proactive care for all patients within their purview.
IC.05.01.01 EP 1 Hospital's governing body is responsible for the implementation, performance, and sustainability of the infection prevention and control program and provides resources to support and track the implementation, success, and sustainability of the program's activities	Responsibilities of the governing body and hospital leaders	- Within the workflow, there is already existing functionality which includes the ability to create line lists, reports, charts (including control charts), graphs, and analytical features. - Graphs include trends and total number of infections, while tables highlight standardized infection ratio (SIRs).
	Access to and use of public health and safety data	- Automatic procedure file creation and multiple error checks ensure that procedures are properly coded and include all necessary elements such as duration, trauma, emergency, scope, closure technique, wound class, procedure type, etc. The system also ensures multiple procedure files are created when there are bilateral or multilevel surgeries. This reduces the time IPs spend on procedure reviews and ensures accuracy. - VigiLanz Infection Prevention simplifies NHSN requirements: - Users can submit reports directly to NHSN without additional fees, packages, or contracts. - Our clinical and technical teams spend over 400 hours annually keeping up with NHSN changes so you can focus on caring for patients.
	Resources for the infection prevention and control program	VigiLanz Infection Prevention software can be implemented smoothly to provide support for your facility's infection prevention program.



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IC.06.01.01 EP 1 To prioritize the program's activities, the hospital identifies risks for infection, contamination, and exposure that pose a risk to patients and staff based on the following: • Its geographic location, community, and population served • The care, treatment, and services it provides • The analysis of surveillance activities and other infection control data • Relevant infection control issues identified by the local, state, or federal public health authorities that could impact the hospital	Access to and use of public health and safety data	See above under "Access to and use of public health and safety data"
	Infection risk identification and annual review	• VigiLanz Infection Prevention provides specific information on everything from daily device utilization by unit to patients with risk factors for infections such as antimicrobial use administration, C. diff risk factors, and device bundle compliance. • Daily isolation can be reported out with ease. • The information can be emailed out electronically and in a timely fashion to support the workflow of both the IP and the clinical care unit.
	Setting goals for prioritizing infection prevention and control activities based on risk	• VigiLanz Infection Prevention fully integrates rounding to evidence-based bundle compliance, environment of care audits, etc. • Because it is part of the electronic tool, the IP can evaluate whether results of bundle audits demonstrate risk in a clinical area, and if that risk correlates with negative outcomes.
IC.06.01.01 EP 2 The hospital reviews identified risks at least annually or whenever significant changes in risk occur	Infection risk identification and annual review	• VigiLanz Infection Prevention has easy to use, enterprise reports for health system leaders to identify infection risks. • Reports, including healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs) and device utilization, can be configured based on the needs of the health system. • Each report allows for the comparison across facilities and over time.

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IC.06.01.01 EP 3 Hospital implements activities for the surveillance, prevention, and control of healthcare-associated infections and other infectious diseases, including maintaining a clean and sanitary environment to avoid sources and transmission of infection, and addresses any infection control issues identified by public health authorities that could impact the hospital	Surveillance of infections or infection control processes	• With VigiLanz Infection Prevention, all IP workflows are centrally located. • VigiLanz Infection Prevention has the capability to parse out reports by infection type or surveillance category, such as an isolation line list versus device days versus HAIs. • Comprehensive reports can be generated based on specific facility needs. • Because everything is together, the IP is able to view trends, create reports, and cross train if needed. • The HAI rules span across a hospital system, which means the facility is notified of a possible infection attributed to their facility automatically.
	Practices to prevent HAIs (MDRO, CLABSI, CAUTI, SSI)	• Utilizing the NHSN definitions for each type of infection, VigiLanz Infection Prevention searches for patients who meet the criteria for HAIs. • From there, the IP validates the infection. • This is a tremendous time savings as there is no hunting to find patients with HAIs, only validation. • The software has rules for identifying a ventilator-associated event (VAE) and links the user directly to the VAE calculator. • The HAI data in hospitals using VigiLanz Infection Prevention is gathered in far less time while improving accuracy. • Better accuracy means being able to identify root causes to prevent infections and trend data over time, as well as ease CMS validation. • The time that is usually devoted to VAEs and SSIs can be quite extensive; VigiLanz Infection Prevention has robust rule offerings that reduce time spent looking for VAEs and SSIs. • VigiLanz Infection Prevention incorporates CAUTI and CLABSI definitions to assist clinicians in determining if criteria are met for NHSN events. • VigiLanz Infection Prevention provides accurate HAI data across facilities within the health system, without the additional work of phone calls, faxes, emails, or tracking down admissions and discharges.

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IC.06.01.01 EP 4 The hospital implements its policies and procedures for infectious disease outbreaks, including the following: - Implementing infection prevention and control activities when an outbreak is first recognized by internal surveillance or public health authorities - Reporting an outbreak in accordance with state and local public health authorities' requirements - Implementing outbreak investigation - Communicating information necessary to prevent further transmission of the infection among patients, visitors, and staff as appropriate	Outbreak management	- VigiLanz Infection Prevention uses near real-time alerts and analytics to identify patients who need isolation using a multifactorial approach to minimize the risk of missing any patient. - Using labs, orders, history, pathology, radiology reports, and so on, VigiLanz Infection Prevention can identify patients who need to be isolated per the facility's guidelines. - By utilizing historical trends in conjunction with rule-based artificial intelligence, VigiLanz Infection Prevention can notify the IP of an uptick in a type of infection earlier than a human may identify a potential outbreak. - VigiLanz Infection Prevention includes visualization tools to identify clusters including overlaps between patients and location. - Visitors and staff may be included as manual entries.
IC.07.01.01 EP 1 The hospital develops and implements protocols for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens. The protocols are readily available for use at the point of care and address the following: - Identify: Procedures for screening at the points of entry to the hospital for respiratory symptoms, fever, rash, and travel history to identify or initiate evaluation for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens - Isolate: Procedures for transmission-based precautions - Inform: Procedures for informing public health authorities and key hospital staff - Required personal protective equipment and proper donning and doffing techniques - Infection control procedures to support continued and safe provision of care while the patient is in isolation and to reduce exposure among staff, patients, and visitors using the hierarchy of controls - Procedures for waste management and cleaning and disinfecting patient care spaces, surfaces, and equipment	Protocols to support preparedness for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens	Rule-based artificial intelligence can be configured to align with facility protocols to alert clinicians in near real-time when high-consequence infectious diseases and special pathogens are identified.
	Reporting to local, state, and federal public health authorities	- The VigiLanz Infection Prevention reporting workflow to the state is easy, effective, and accounts for infections identified in the lab, through radiology, and more. - With the reporting workflow, late reporting of infectious diseases is a thing of the past. - Moreover, it is easy to generate line lists of content reported to the state health department to prove compliance with mandatory reporting of infectious diseases.

VigiLanz Infection Prevention Supports TJC IC Standards and EPs for HAP & CAH

Infection Control Topic¹

Infection Control Topic ¹		IC.04.01.01					IC.05.01.01		IC.06.01.01					IC.07.01.01	
		EP 1	EP 2	EP 3	EP 4	EP 5	EP 1	EP 2	EP 1	EP 2	EP 3	EP 4	EP 5	EP 1	EP 2
Responsibilities of the governing body and hospital leaders	New IC Standard/EP	×					×	×							
Requirements for infection control policies and procedures				×	×										
Requirements for policies and procedures addressing the reprocessing reusable devices, including the use of manufacturers' instructions					×										
Access to and use of public health and safety data							×		×						
Protocols to support preparedness for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens														×	×
Infection prevention and control program leader and responsibilities	Revised IC Standard/EP	×	×												
Resources for the infection prevention and control program							×								
Infection risk identification and annual review									×	×					
Setting goals for/prioritizing infection prevention and control activities based on risk									×						
Use of evidence-based national guidelines when developing infection prevention and control activities				×											
Surveillance of infections or infection control processes											×				
Outbreak management												×			
Infection prevention and control program is hospitalwide						×									
Implementation of infection prevention and control activities, including cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization											×				
Communication of information to staff, visitors, patients, families on responsibilities in infection prevention and control, e.g., posters or pamphlets												×			
Communication of infection surveillance, prevention, and control information to the appropriate staff within the hospital								×				×		×	
Reporting to local, state, and federal public health authorities				×										×	
Patient notification and follow-up after exposure to infection or incorrectly reprocessed medical/surgical device					×										
Occupational health													×		
Staff vaccination against influenza				×									×		
Practices to prevent HAIs (MDRO, CLABSI, CAUTI, SSI)				×							×				
Communication of evaluation results with the quality and safety leaders															



Ready to elevate your infection prevention strategy?

It's never been easier for your organization to reduce harm, improve safety, and provide the highest quality patient care. [Request a personalized demo](#) to learn more about how we can support your hospital's infection control needs.

1 TJC Reference Guide: Infection Control Standards, effective July 1, 2024

Abbreviations: TJC=The Joint Commission; IC=Infection Prevention & Control; EP=Elements of Performance; HAP=Hospitals; CAH=Critical Access Hospitals

About us

Inovalon is a leading provider of cloud-based SaaS solutions empowering data-driven healthcare. The Inovalon ONE® Platform brings together national-scale connectivity, real-time primary source data access, and advanced analytics into a sophisticated cloud-based platform empowering improved outcomes and economics across the healthcare ecosystem. The company's analytics and capabilities are used by nearly 20,000 customers supporting more than 53,000 sites of care. For more information, visit www.inovalon.com.

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