

8 Top Tips for Health & Social Care Professionals

1

Deliver excellent **CARE** by:

- Always working to IPC best practice standards which include use of appropriate hand hygiene, wearing gloves and aprons appropriately, ensuring equipment and the environment is clean.
- Ensuring the correct hand washing technique is used at all times.
- Ensuring Alcohol gel is available at the point of care.
- Recognising the risks from infections spreading to other service users and by putting in appropriate measures to reduce this
- Including service users in their care planning when they have a known infection.

2

Act with **COMPASSION** by:

- Discussing infection with patients/ service users so they understand their diagnosis, treatment and follow up care.
- Considering the effects isolation may have on the service user when this is required to protect others from the spread of infection.

3

Evidence your **COMPETENCE** by:

- Adhering to best practice policies and guidance.
- Ensuring all infection control training is up to date.
- Ensuring practice is evidence-based.

4

Uphold excellent **COMMUNICATIONS** by:

- Talking to service users about their infection and about things they and their family can do to reduce the risks from getting an infection.
- Ensuring other health and social care professionals are aware of any known infection risks when managing their service user.
- Ensuring health and social care professionals have accurate information about managing specific infections.
- Ensuring outbreaks of infections are managed effectively and that all relevant health and social care professionals are informed about outbreaks.
- Keeping patient records up to date and accurate.



5

Show your **COURAGE** by:

- Auditing health and social care institutions and highlighting poor infection control practice.
- Supporting institutions that are not adhering to infection control standards by making recommendations for best practice.
- Challenging poor IPC practice and reporting it appropriately.

6

Demonstrate your **COMMITMENT** by:

- Ensuring all IPC policies and procedures are up to date and give clear instructions for staff to follow.
- Monitoring staff training to ensure that they are up to date and are all knowledgeable about infection prevention and control measures and their responsibilities for adhering to these.

7

Develop the **CULTURE** in your organisation by:

- Rewarding and encouraging IPC best practice.
- Being open and honest when IPC mistakes are made and encourage learning to prevent re-occurrence.
- Ensuring information is readily available for staff and service users.
- Engaging in public engagement events to educate the population around best infection control practices.

8

Ensure **CONSISTENCY** for all people you care for by:

- Applying the same high IPC standards across all service users and their environment.
- Provide consistent advice on how to ensure high standards are met to prevent and control infections.

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Bringing out the best in the health and social care workforce