

Serenity Care PACE

Infection Control Plan

Policy:

The PACE Program will have an infection control plan.

Purpose:

To contribute to the provision of a safe environment for participants, staff, volunteers, and visitors accessing Serenity Care by:

- Promoting timely identification, analysis, and reporting the incidence and cause of selected healthcare acquired infections.
- Identifying participants at high risk for infections
- Maintaining sufficient surveillance activities and data analysis to control the spread of infectious diseases or organisms.
- Preventing and thereby reducing the occurrence of potentially avoidable healthcare acquired infections.
- Concurrent review, analysis, and application of existing regulations, standards, and/or guidelines of applicable professional organizations and governmental agencies.
- Providing staff education related to infection prevention, control, and epidemiology on an on-going basis.
- Providing medical staff with liaison on Infection Control issues as per Medical Director.
- Assisting with employee health issues for appropriate follow-up of exposure to infectious diseases or organisms and policy development to prevent their occurrence.
- Providing consultation to administration, committees, staff and managers on issues regarding infection prevention, control, and epidemiology.
- Developing, evaluating, and revising Infection Control policies and procedures relating to all phases of program activities.
- Participating in multi-disciplinary quality improvement strategies.

Identifying opportunities for improvement based on indicators, process and outcome measures, other findings and/or observations.

Scope:

All Staff

Fundamental Information:

It is the policy of the Serenity Care Infection Control Team to assist in providing cost efficient, quality health care by identifying, preventing, and reducing the risks of endemic and epidemic healthcare acquired infection transmission among all patients, staff, volunteers, and visitors by supporting the staff in all areas of the facility when appropriate, by minimizing occupational hazards associated with the delivery of health care, and by fostering scientific-based decision making.

Procedure:

Authority and Responsibility

The responsibility and authority and effectiveness of the Infection Control Program rest with the Infection Control Team. In order to achieve maximum effectiveness, the Infection Control Plan of Service shall have the support of the Administration, the Medical Staff, and all of the Health Care workers within the system.

The Infection Control Team consists of the QI Coordinator, PACE Center RN and consults with the Medical Director, whenever necessary. The Infection Control Team has the authority to institute any surveillance, prevention and control measures or studies when there is reason to believe that any participant may be in danger of acquiring a healthcare acquired infection.

Coordination and Integration

This function is the responsibility of the Infection Control Team. The Team meets quarterly and reports findings as part of the QI Committee.

The Infection Control Team is available to all to support and educate all areas as a resource. These individuals communicate and work with other committees and program departments on an on-going basis.

Scope of Services

Surveillance, prevention and control efforts are the responsibility of all employees. The Infection Control Team with the support of administration manages the process.

The Infection Control Program consists of six (6) major elements:

- A. Infection Surveillance
- B. Infection Prevention and Control
- C. Education
- D. Consultation
- E. Policies, Procedures and Practices Monitoring
- F. Environment of Care

A. Infection Control Surveillance

The purpose of Infection Control Surveillance is to establish and maintain a database that describes the occurrence and distribution of healthcare acquired infections and the dissemination of the data to clinicians. Further, the goal of surveillance is to use infection control data to prevent infections.

The Infection Control Team approves the type and scope of surveillance activities, to include:

1. Review of participant infections, as appropriate, to determine whether an infection is healthcare acquired, using definitions and criteria, approved by the Infection Control Team.
2. Review is directed to surveillance data, when available, with particular attention to unusual clusters or excessive rates of infections or any repetitive cluster.
3. Review of designated microbiological reports.
4. Identification of specific risks for healthcare acquired infection for participants undergoing specific procedures and/or interventions.

Three types of surveillance strategies are used within the system to assist with identification of healthcare acquired infections and determine if control measures are indicated. Categories of infections monitored are based on historical data, physician request, and problems identified and/or recent investigations.

1. **Priority-driven targeted surveillance** (may be conducted for specific units or areas, specific patient populations or specific procedures)
2. **Problem-oriented surveillance** (Outbreak response)
3. **Focus studies** (may be conducted for investigation of single case of epidemiological importance, new or changed procedures or outcomes comparison, as well as investigative activities associated with sentinel events and major injuries).

B. Prevention and Control of Infections

- The Infection Control Team, having evaluated the results of surveillance activities or special investigations and in consideration of the further potential for healthcare acquired infection among participant and program personnel, approves actions to prevent or control such infection (including Infection Control policy and procedure).
- The Team representatives will give regular input to the evaluation of participant care items, employee health practices, and policy and procedure through service on committees and/or teams.
- Timely reporting of communicable diseases or employee exposure as mandated by government guidelines and/or regulatory agencies.
- Control measures are initiated as appropriate and when clusters of infections in participants or employees are identified by surveillance activities or physician referral. Examples include: participant placement in isolation,

outbreak investigation, disinfection of the environment, identification and elimination of common source and reinforcement of barrier precautions.

C. Consultation

The Infection Control Program provides knowledge and guidance in basic epidemiology and infection prevention and control. The Infection Control Team shall provide consultation on matters relative to infectious disease prevention and control, to all departments and services.

D. Policies, Procedures and Practice Monitoring

As part of the ongoing Infection Control Plan, members of the Infection Control Team shall participate in the development of new policies and procedures that have infection control implications toward participants care. The Infection Control Team shall also work with departments and services to review existing policies and procedures on a regular basis and as needed. The Infection Control Team shall also participate in the monitoring of participant care practices. Policies/procedures will follow evidence-based practices and current regulatory guidelines.

The scope of services provided by the Infection Control Team as a part of this function includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Membership on selected participant care and QI committees.
- b) Collaborative review of site/department specific infection control policies will be conducted on a regular basis with integration of pertinent regulatory requirements, accreditation standards, guidelines, and current infection prevention and control practice.
- c) Developing or assisting departments and services to develop checklists or tools used to monitor the infection control aspects of participant care.
- d) Monitoring adherence to infection control policy and procedure practices while in program departments and nursing care areas.

E. Environment of Care

Maintaining an environment that minimizes the risk of infection transmission among participants, healthcare workers, and others in the healthcare setting is an important element of the overall Infection Control Plan. The Infection Control Team shall work closely with all departments and services to identify and correct risks associated with the physical plant, equipment, and supplies.

Infection Control participation includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Assists with the selection and placement of equipment and products that impact infection control in participant care areas.
- b) Development or review of policies, procedures and practices for cleaning, disinfection or sterilization of instruments, surfaces or equipment in the health care setting.
- c) Selection of appropriate disinfecting agents.

- d) Assistance with the evaluation and procurement of personal protective equipment for compliance with standard precautions guidelines and regulatory guidelines.
- e) Evaluation of safety devices or engineering controls that may reduce the risk of disease transmission.
- f) The Infection Control Team shall monitor compliance with the handling of infectious waste and linen.
- g) Periodic environmental rounds shall be made within all system facilities to assess the adequacy of practices with timely feedback to the PACE Director.
- h) The Infection Control Team will work with departments to develop contingency plans that have an impact on infection prevention and control.
- i) The Infection Control Team will work with Food and Nutrition Services to ensure that food preparation, handling and storage are safe.

Annual Evaluation of Program

The Infection Control Team evaluates, revises as necessary and approves the type and scope of surveillance activities by reviewing:

- Healthcare acquired infection data
- Effectiveness of prevention and control strategies
- Services instituted as well as other procedures, priorities or problems identified in the past year.

Annual evaluation is reflected in the Infection Control Summary Reports.

Annual reports of Infection Control Surveillance and control activities as well as goals accomplished are presented to the QI Team each year for action and strategic planning.

Objectives for the Surveillance, Preventions and Control Plan are established annually.

Documentation:

None

Related Company Policies:

Infection Control Policy and Isolation

Reference:

OSHA/CDC