

## Infection Prevention and Control, HICC AIIMS Rajkot

The Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC) at AIIMS Rajkot was officially formed and came into effect on 13th January 2022, under the leadership of Dr. (Col) Ashwini Agarwal, Professor, Department of Microbiology. This committee was established to address the critical need for structured and proactive infection control measures within the hospital, aligning with national and international standards of patient safety and healthcare quality.

AIIMS/RAJKOT/ED/2023/ 150

Dated: 19/10/2023

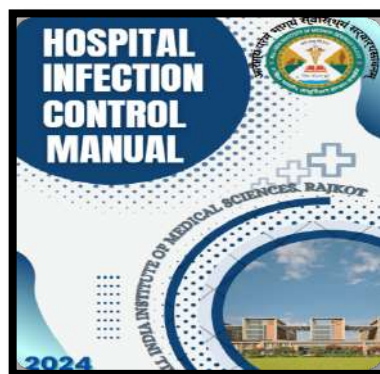
**Hospital Infection Control Committee**

In supersession to all previous orders, following Hospital Infection Control Committee is hereby constituted with immediate effect till further order.

Sr No	Name	Designation	Role
1	Prof Dr (Col) C.D.S Katoch	Executive Director	Executive Director and Medical Superintendent
2	Prof. Dr. Ashwini Agarwal	Professor and Head Department of Microbiology	Chairperson
3	Dr. Abhishek Padhi	Assistant Professor Department of Microbiology	Member Secretary
4	Dr. Mayuri Bhise	Assistant Professor Department of Microbiology	Infection Control Officer
5	Dr. Kuldeep G	Associate Professor Department of Hospital Admin	Member
6	Dr. Pinky S K Sahoo	Additional Professor Department of Obst & Gynae	Member
7	Dr. Kapil Jetha	Associate Professor Department of Pediatrics	Member
8	Dr. Abhishek Kumar Mishra	Assistant Professor Department of Orthopedics	Member
9	Dr. Yashdeep Singh Pathania	Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology and Dy MS	Member
10	Dr. Komal Jangir	Assistant Professor Department of Medicine	Member
11	Dr. Kunal Deokar	Assistant Professor Department of Pulmonary Medicine	Member
12	Dr. Anita Saran	Assistant Professor Department of Anesthesiology	Member
13	Dr. Minesh Sindhal	Assistant Professor Department of Surgery	Member
14	Miss Radha Vyas	Nursing Staff	Infection Control Nurse
15	Miss Urvashi Kotadiya	Nursing Staff	Infection Control Nurse

### 1. Policy Framing and Documentation

One of the committee's initial priorities was the framing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the development of a comprehensive Hospital Infection Control (HIC) Manual. These documents serve as the backbone for infection prevention protocols, ensuring that evidence-based and uniform practices are followed across all departments.





## 2. Infrastructure and Environmental Enhancements

The HICC has played a pivotal role in overseeing several infrastructural improvements aimed at infection prevention. These include the optimization of ventilation systems, layout modifications in patient care areas, and ensuring the availability of hand hygiene stations throughout the hospital premises. Environmental decontamination protocols have been rigorously implemented, with regular disinfection schedules and audits to ensure adherence.

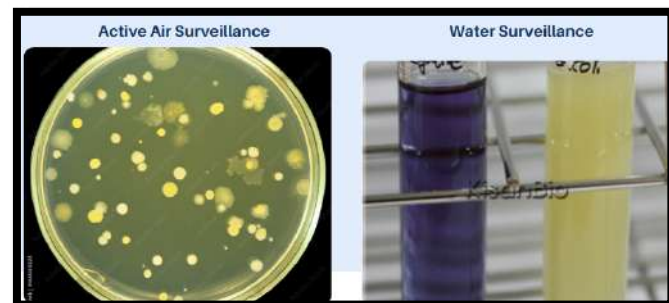
## 3. Training and Capacity Building

Recognizing the importance of continuous learning, the HICC has organised regular training sessions for healthcare workers across all cadres. These trainings focus on best practices in hand hygiene, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), biomedical waste segregation, needle-stick injury (NSI) management, and outbreak response. Special emphasis has been laid on induction training and refresher training to maintain vigilance among staff.



## 4. Monitoring and Surveillance Activities

- A robust monitoring mechanism has been set up to track adherence to infection control practices.
- Hand Hygiene Compliance: Regular audits using WHO's Five Moments for Hand Hygiene framework.
- Environmental Surveillance: Routine microbiological surveillance of high-touch surfaces, operating theatres, ICUs, and sterile processing areas.
- Use of PPE: Ensuring correct and consistent use of PPE through spot checks and feedback.
- Operation Theatre (OT) Surveillance: Monitoring sterility indicators, airflow dynamics, and surgical site infection rates.



## 5. Checklist Development and Reporting Mechanisms

To standardize infection control activities, the HICC has formulated various checklists for procedures, environmental cleaning, and audits. These tools facilitate consistent assessment and help identify areas needing improvement. An accidental event reporting system has also been implemented to document and analyze incidents such as NSIs, spillages, or breaches in infection control.

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## 6. Outbreak Preparedness and Response

AIIMS Rajkot has established dedicated outbreak investigation teams. These multidisciplinary teams comprise specialists in infection control, clinical microbiology, epidemiology, and clinical medicine, trained to respond swiftly to suspected outbreaks. Their responsibilities include case tracing, contact screening, sample collection, and implementing containment measures.

## 7. Awareness and Observational Events

The committee actively promotes infection control awareness by celebrating global events, such as Global Handwashing Day, to reinforce the importance of hand hygiene. Interactive sessions, skits, posters, and quizzes have been conducted to engage both staff and patients in understanding the importance of hand cleanliness in preventing infections.



## 8. NSI Monitoring and Staff Safety

A dedicated system has been introduced for monitoring needle-stick injuries, ensuring timely reporting, prophylaxis, counseling, and root cause analysis to prevent recurrence. The safety and health of staff are a top priority, with follow-ups and incident reviews regularly conducted.

## 9. IEC materials and posters

To enhance awareness among staff and patients regarding infection control practices, a range of IEC materials and posters has been designed. These resources emphasize key aspects such as Standard Precautions, Biomedical Waste (BMW) Management, Needlestick Injury (NSI) Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, Respiratory Etiquette, and Spill Management, thereby fostering the significance of infection prevention and control measures.



## 10. ICRA and Infection Control Rounds

- Daily infection control rounds are carried out by the Infection Control Nurses (ICNs). The assessment of IPC activities is conducted using the Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) form by both ICNs and Senior Residents assigned to HIC, under the supervision of the Infection Control Officer (ICO).
- On-site corrections and bedside training are actively provided.
- All committee members are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring strict compliance with and maintenance of infection control practices within their designated areas.

**11. Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD)** The CSSD is pivotal in ensuring patient safety and minimizing hospital-acquired surgical infections. From an infection control standpoint, it is crucial to maintain stringent disinfection and sterilization protocols for surgical equipment. Key processes include:

- Receiving, washing, and decontaminating instruments, followed by drying them in dryer cabinets.
- Conducting inspections, counting, assembling, and packaging of surgical instruments and sets.





- Performing sterilization and disinfection using methods such as steam sterilization or plasma sterilization.
- Regularly reviewing sterilization efficacy through Biological Indicator (BI) report assessments.



## 12 Biomedical Waste Management

- Biomedical Waste (BMW) management is closely monitored with color-coded segregation, timely disposal, and staff training on protocols aligned with CPCB guidelines. Formulation of Pictorial guidelines for BMW management under CPCB



## 13. Awards and Laurels achieved

### Dr Mayuri Bhise (Infection Control Officer)-

- Special IPC Olympiad 2024 Winners -Top 6<sup>th</sup> rank among the 30 Candidates
- Cleared Certified Infection Prevention and Control Professional Exam (CICP – CAHO) and Certificate course in Infection Prevention and Control under the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists
- Basic and Advanced CPHIC course on Infection Prevention and Control organized by CAHO (Committed to Safer Health Care)
- Poster Presentation at CAHOCON 2025 - "Improving Infection Prevention and Control: The Role of Educational Training for Healthcare Staff in a Tertiary Care Hospital"

### Miss Vidhi Talwar (Infection Control Nurse) –

- Gold Medal Nursing Category in Certified Infection Prevention and Control Professional Exam (CICP) organized by CAHO (Committed to Safer Health Care)
- Certificate of completion XV-workshop on “Capacity Building of Hospital Infection Control to detect and prevent antimicrobial resistance in India” on 18th and 19th April, 2024. (ICMR-CDC).

### Miss Radha Vyas (Infection Control Nurse) –

- Certificate of completion XV-workshop on “Capacity Building of Hospital Infection Control to detect and prevent antimicrobial resistance in India” on 18th and 19th April, 2024. (ICMR-CDC).

- Cleared Basic CPHIC course organized by CAHO
- Cleared certificate course on HAI surveillance by WHO



## 14. Research and publications

1) Padhi, A., Bhise, M., Chaudhary, A., Vyas, R., Talwar, V., Agarwal, A., & Katoch, C. (2025). Establishing robust infection control at a new hospital: the AIIMS Rajkot experience. *International Journal of Infection Control*, 21. <https://doi.org/10.3396/ijic.v21.23790>

## 15. Vaccination

Initiated Hepatitis B vaccination for healthcare workers across all cadres under the immunization clinic, and monitored Anti-HBsAg titers to evaluate immune response.

## 16. Projects

**Intramural Funded Project -Dr Mayuri Bhise, Principal Investigator** - Evaluation of Anti-HBs Antibody Titers and Assessing the Immune Response among Healthcare Workers Vaccinated against Hepatitis B in AIIMS Rajkot. (IM/24 /F/2024-25)

## **17. Meeting of HICC**

Chaired by Dr. (Col) Ashwini Agarwal, Professor from the Department of Microbiology at AIIMS Rajkot, the HIC committee convenes to address infection prevention and control (IPC) initiatives. During the meetings, they assess current challenges, deliberate on potential solutions, and make key decisions to ensure effective implementation of infection control measures. Records of the minutes of the meeting (MOM) are maintained

The HICC at AIIMS Rajkot has established itself as a cornerstone of patient safety and infection prevention. Through structured policies, proactive training, and diligent surveillance, the committee continues to ensure a safe and hygienic environment for patients, staff, and visitors. With its comprehensive strategies and rapid response systems, AIIMS Rajkot is well-equipped to prevent, detect, and manage healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) effectively.