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**INFECTION PREVENTION MANUAL  
FOR  
AMBULATORY CARE**

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## INTRODUCTION

Infection prevention in the ambulatory setting is an important safety and quality function. Unfortunately, there is inadequate research related to infection prevention in this setting to provide comprehensive evidence-based guidance for prevention practices. Therefore, it is necessary for us to apply general principles of infection prevention and adapt them to this unique environment.

Primary care medical offices, surgery and medical specialty clinics, dental offices, urgent care centers, endoscopy and surgery centers, correctional facility clinics, diagnostic treatment centers, physical and occupational therapy clinics, fertility centers, and infusion and dialysis centers are but a few of the many environments in which an infection preventionist may find an ambulatory care infection prevention challenge. The infection preventionist is confronted with unique opportunities to identify, prevent, and control infections in an outpatient setting where interaction may be brief and follow-up may be infrequent or absent. The level of care provided in the outpatient setting may range from a brief consultation to fairly extensive surgical procedures. Yet, in general, the overall risk of healthcare associated infections (HAIs) is lower in outpatients than in hospitalized patients. No matter how challenges present themselves, the ambulatory care infection preventionist's goal is to develop strategies designed to control them and to provide a climate in which infection is identified and the transmission of infection is minimized.

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance in the development, oversight, and continuous evaluation of an infection prevention system for ambulatory care regardless of the specific setting. All of the policies in this manual may not be applicable to your specific ambulatory setting therefore customization of the policies is imperative for addressing the unique characteristics of your patient population. You are encouraged to use the CD-Rom that is provided with this manual to make the policies exactly what you need them to be to provide the highest level of care and infection prevention for your patient population.

*APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Chapter 49 Ambulatory Care. Washington, DC: APIC, 2009.*

Friedman, C and Petersen, KH. *Infection Control in Ambulatory Care (APIC)*. MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc., 2004.

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# INFECTION PREVENTION MANUAL

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APPROVED BY:

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PRESIDENT

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ADMINISTRATOR

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MEDICAL DIRECTOR

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DIRECTOR OF NURSING

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DATE