
**INFECTION PREVENTION MANUAL
FOR
AMBULATORY
SURGERY CENTERS**

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Infection Prevention Manual for Ambulatory Surgery Centers

INTRODUCTION

Infection prevention in the ambulatory surgery center (ASC) is an important safety and quality function. Some comprehensive evidence-based guidelines for prevention practices exist, especially for prevention of surgical site infections and for sterilization and disinfection. However, there is limited research relating to some other aspects of infection prevention specific to this setting, e.g. isolation precautions. Therefore, we must apply general principles of infection prevention and adapt them to this environment. You will find some adaptations of those principles in this manual.

The infection preventionist in an ASC is confronted with unique opportunities to identify, prevent, and control infections in a setting where interaction may be brief and follow-up by the ASC may be infrequent and limited. The level of care provided in the ASC may range from a minor procedure to fairly extensive surgical procedures. Yet, in general, the overall risk of healthcare associated infections (HAIs) is lower in ASCs than in hospitals. No matter what challenges present themselves, the ASC infection preventionist's goal is to provide a climate in which the risk of infection is minimized and infections, when they occur are identified.

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance in the development, oversight, and continuous evaluation of an infection prevention program for ASCs. All of the policies in this manual may not be applicable to your specific ASC, 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.

This manual has been written to reflect the current national standards of practice and national guidelines for infection prevention. These guidelines and standards change frequently as new research is done and new information becomes available. Please follow these changes and update your policies as needed. Some web sites that are very helpful in providing the most current information include:

- **Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)** - www.aaahc.org
- **American Institute of Architects (AIA)** - www.aia.org/
- **Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)** - aami.org/
- **Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)** - www.aorn.org/
- **Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)** – www.apic.org
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** – www.cdc.gov
- **The Joint Commission (TJC)** - www.jointcommission.org/
- **Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)** - www.ihl.org/ihl
- **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report** – www.cdc.gov/mmwr
- **Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America** – www.shea-online.org
- You may also sign up for rapid notification of issues relating to infection prevention at www2a.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/rns/hip_rns_subscribe.html

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The manual includes updated references and we encourage you to access these references and become familiar with them.

To use the manual to the best advantage, please consider:

- The Infection Preventionist (IP) should carefully review the contents of the manual, determine if the policies and procedures are feasible and applicable to your ASC, and if so, implement them and monitor for compliance. If they are not feasible/applicable for the ASC, he/she can adapt them to make them more pertinent.
- The Infection Prevention Committee should meet on a regular basis and as a part of the agenda, review and revise Infection Prevention policies and procedures.
- Please review local, state, and federal requirements as well as Joint Commission and AAAHC standards and national guidelines in setting up your Infection Prevention program. It is the user's responsibility to assure that the policies reflect current regulations, guidelines, and standards of practice.
- This manual is intended for broad national use and cannot represent state and local requirements.
- This manual may not be reproduced for sale or as a gift.

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Gail Bennett has over 30 years of experience in infection prevention (IP). She is president of Georgia-based ICP Associates, Inc., a national company that provides consulting and IP products to healthcare facilities. Her clients include ambulatory surgery centers, long term care facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, behavioral health facilities, and industry. She consults with several healthcare chains, providing her IP expertise to more than 500 healthcare facilities through their corporate offices. Her consulting experience has covered the topics of infection prevention, performance improvement, management, and preparation for surveys. Bennett has conducted training programs for the Pan American Health Organization including five island countries in the West Indies and has developed and coordinated the ICP Associates' three day infection prevention conference for 22 years.

Bennett has served on the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) national board of directors, on the APIC-Atlanta board of directors and on the board of directors and as treasurer of the National Center for Clinical Epidemiology. She lectures frequently, delivering presentations to organizations and professional associations nationwide.

Bennett has written multiple chapters for the APIC text on IP and consulting. She is author of infection prevention manuals for hospital employees and those involved in long term care, home care, ambulatory surgery centers, and behavioral health as well as hundreds of training programs. Her published articles about IP have appeared in such journals as the American Journal of Infection Control.

Learn more about Gail Bennett at www.icpassociates.com.

Marie Kassai, RN, BSN, MPH, CIC

Marie Kassai is a graduate of Jersey City Hospital School of Nursing. She later received her Bachelor's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and an MPH from Columbia University, New York. In addition she completed the Organizational Dynamics, Inc. Facilitator Training Course.

Kassai is currently the managing staff member of New Jersey-based MRK Consulting, LLC. As Infection Preventionist she oversees the infection prevention program of acute care, long term care, and dialysis facilities, ambulatory care and surgery centers. Although the details may differ, the basics of IP are applied to the variety of settings. In her role, Kassai has responsibilities for the prevention of infection which includes care provided at the bedside, isolation and placement of patients, the use of antibiotics, and the maintenance of the environment.

Kassai has been certified in Infection Prevention since 1985 and has served her local APIC chapter in various roles, including Chapter President and Chair of the Governmental Affairs and Education Committees. She was a founding member of the Basic and Advanced Courses for Infection Prevention Professionals in the Northeastern United States. She has served National APIC as a member of the Awards Committee, Education Committee, and board member. Kassai is currently serving on the Internal Documents Committee, a sub-committee of the National APIC Practice Guidance Committee and for this committee serves as a liaison to both AAAHC and IAHCSSM.

Kassai has lectured locally and nationally to a wide variety of community and professional organizations and associations including the national education and annual conferences for APIC, the Funeral Director's Association, the American Embalmer's Association, the Federation of Ambulatory Surgery Association, various ambulatory surgery centers and associated groups. The topics included basic Infection Prevention, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Smallpox, Performance Improvement, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, Emerging Pathogens, Hepatitis C and Bioterrorism. In addition, Kassai has performed accreditation surveys in Japan and has visited HIV programs in Africa.

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Resources

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