



1. What Is Infection Control

Infection Control is a multi- disciplinary responsibility. Each employee plays a part. Breaking the chain of infection by the prevention, monitoring, assessment and treatment of Diseases and Infections.

This is achieved by:

- an active Infection Control Education Programme,
- regular surveillance,
- evaluation of departmental techniques
- policies and protocols - with regular revision to ensure up to date techniques and practices are used.

2. Nosocomial Infections

An infection that is determined to be Nosocomial is:

“An infection occurring in a patient/client in a Hospital or Health Care Facility, and which it was not present or incubating at the time of admission, or the residual of an infection acquired during a previous admission.”

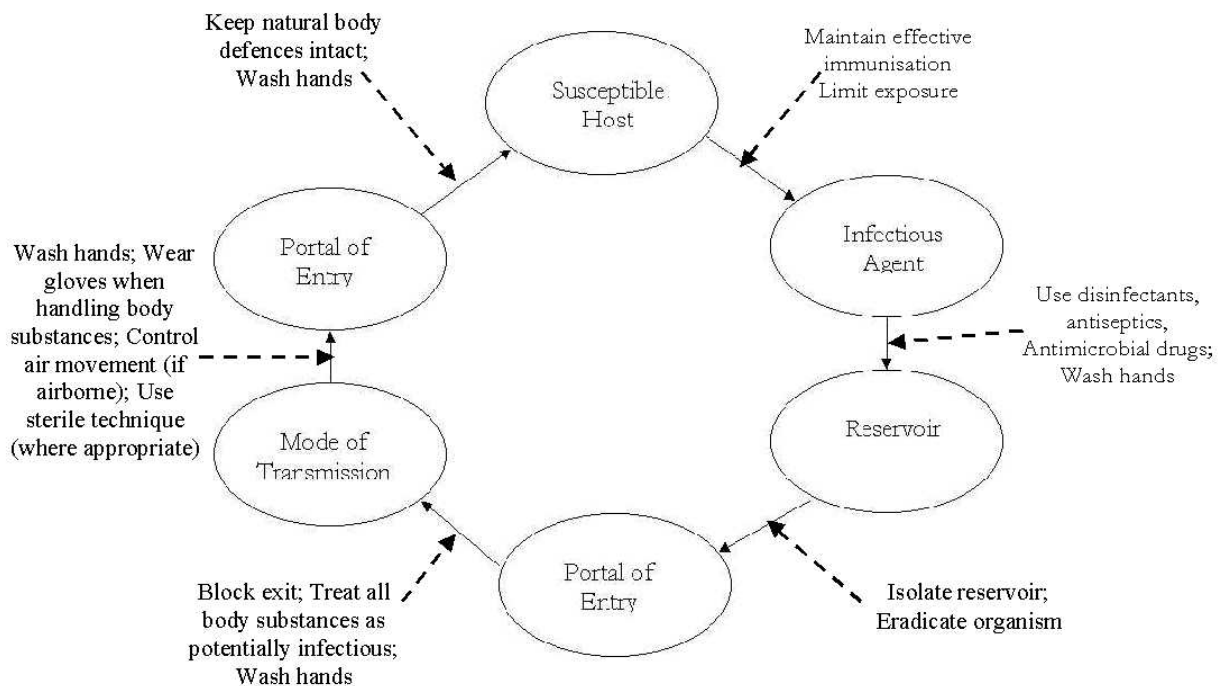
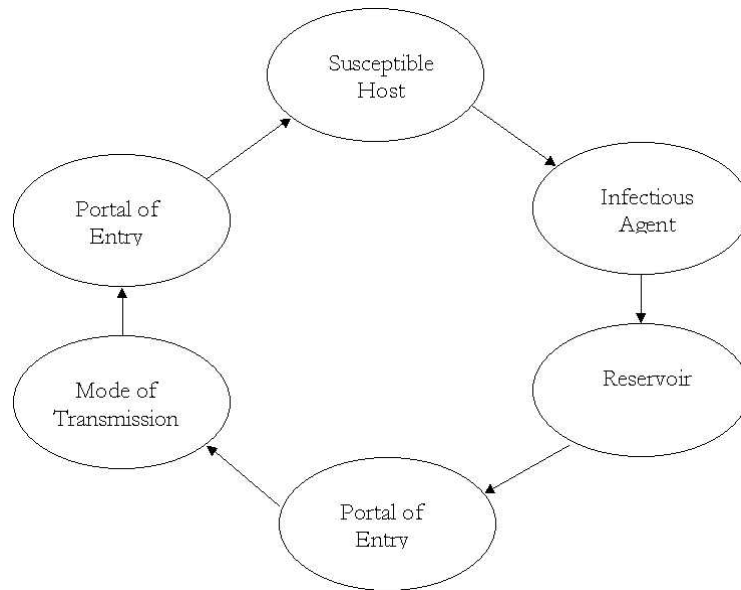
This includes infections acquired in hospital, but appearing after discharge, and also such infections among the staff of the facility.

(Control of Communicable Diseases In Man - A .S. Benensan)



3. Chain Of Infection

Infection Control recognises the *chain of infection* as a model that easily describes how infection may enter the body, and by the development of that model how infection may be prevented from entering the body and establishing, and from being spread to other contacts.





4. Characteristics Of And Ways Of Weakening The Chain Of Infection

LINK	CHARACTERISTICS OF LINK	WAYS OF WEAKEN LINK
<p>Infections Agent (Pathogen, ethologic agent):</p> <p>Includes bacteria, viruses And fungi that normally inhabits, or has recently been introduced into the body and on the skin.</p> <p>Reservoir Natural habitat of organisms (where they grow and reproduce).</p> <p>Portal (mean) of Exit The primary route of escape for the organism.</p>	<p>Has form capable of reproducing.</p> <p>Requires food and proper temperature to grow, some (aerobic) require oxygen; others (anaerobic) require absence of oxygen.</p> <p>Able to resist chemicals and physical agents (e.g. heat, drying, chemicals) that threaten its life.</p> <p>May or may not produce toxins (see a microbiology text for more details).</p> <p>May be on human beings, animals, and soil, food, water or body excreta.</p> <p>Human beings and animals can be reservoirs, yet demonstrate no evidence of the disease (Carrier).</p> <p>Frequently related to site of growth and reproduction (Reservoir).</p> <p>Examples: Respiratory tract, GI tract (especially mouth, anus), body excreta (urine, faeces, wound drainage). Spreading ultimately depends on ability of infectious agent to live outside the reservoir.</p>	<p>Use antiseptics to inhibit growth of organisms.</p> <p>Use disinfectants to destroy micro- organisms.</p> <p>Use appropriate anti-infective agents of sufficient strength, and for sufficiently long time to kill mutate or weaken organisms.</p> <p>Limit contact with exposed people (especially those exposed to viral infections, which may be highly contagious before the disease is recognized), particularly of own resistance is low.</p> <p>Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Do not cough directly over open wound. Careful handling of body exudates that may carry organism.</p> <p>Proper disposal of dressings and wound coverings. Careful Handwashing after handling Blood and Body fluids Isolation of persons with known infection.</p>



LINK	CHARACTERISTICS OF LINK	WAYS OF WEAKEN LINK
Means of Transmission Method by which organisms are spread.	Direct contact /Indirect contact Via moist, hands, clothes, vectors e.g. mosquitoes, air movement, contaminated pre-packaged supplies (IV solution or other supplies).	Avoid direct contact if infection is known. Hand Hygiene/ use of PPE /wiping of equipment after use Personal items should be used by only one person. Control air movement by folding, not shaking, bed linens. Quality checks on sterility or prepackaged, pre-sterilized materials. Consider anything in contact with floor or infected person as carrying pathogens.
Portal (means) of Entry	Any of the following may indicate entrance of pathogens into the body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ unexpected temperature elevation ▪ local tenderness ▪ dysuria ▪ diarrhea ▪ skins lesions ▪ purulent drainage ▪ unexplained cough 	Avoid break in skin whenever possible. Carefully discard disposable syringes and needles to avoid accidental skin puncture. Maintain up-to-date immunization programme for all persons.
Susceptible Host	As immune defenses are weakened, susceptibility to infection increases: high-risk persons include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A very young child in whom passive immunity from mother is lost, but own immune defense is underdeveloped. ▪ Older persons in whom immunologic defenses are diminished, ▪ Undernourished or malnourished persons. ▪ Persons with chronic diseases, such as uremia, diabetes, ▪ Immuno compromised patients 	Separate high-risk persons from persons with known or potential infections. Advice visitors not to visit if unwell. Provide nutritional supplements for malnourished or undernourished persons. Ensure all food provided is produced using food safety principles.



Introduction To Infection Control

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8

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