

Infection Prevention and Control in Home Care and Hospice: Common Compliance Issues

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Hosted by Martin Kiernan

Objectives

At the conclusion of this webinar, the participant will be able to:

- Recognize common problems and infection prevention challenges related to providing care in the home setting.
- Describe methods to implement infection prevention and control strategies in the home.
- More effectively prepare for a home care and hospice CMS and accrediting organization survey.

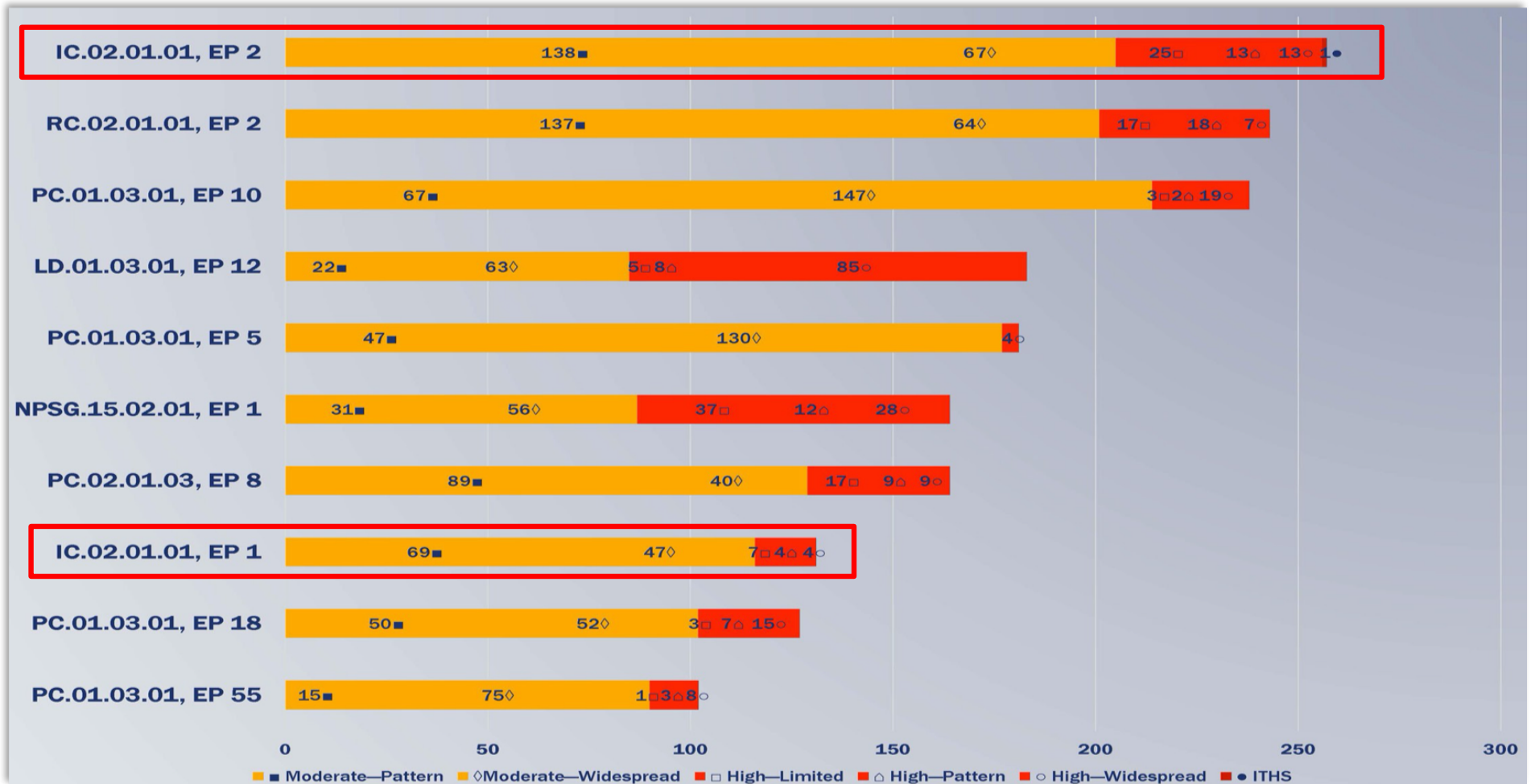
Federal Regulations: Home Health & Hospice Conditions of Participation

- §484.70 Home Health CoP: Infection prevention and control.
- §418.60 Hospice CoP: Infection prevention and control.
 - (a) Standard: Prevention. The HHA must follow accepted standards of practice, including the use of standard precautions, to prevent the transmission of infections and communicable diseases.
 - (b) Standard: Control. Maintain a coordinated agency-wide program for the surveillance, identification, prevention, control, and investigation of infectious and communicable diseases that is an integral part of the QAPI program. The infection control program must include:
 - (1) A method for identifying infectious and communicable disease problems; and
 - (2) A plan for the appropriate actions that are expected to result in improvement and disease prevention.
 - (c) Standard: Education. The HHA must provide infection control education to staff, patients, and caregiver(s).

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). (Jan. 13, 2017).
Conditions of Participation for Home Health Agencies. *Federal Register*, 82(9), 4504-4591.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). (June 5, 2008).
Conditions of Participation for Hospices. *Federal Register*, 73(109), 32008-32220.

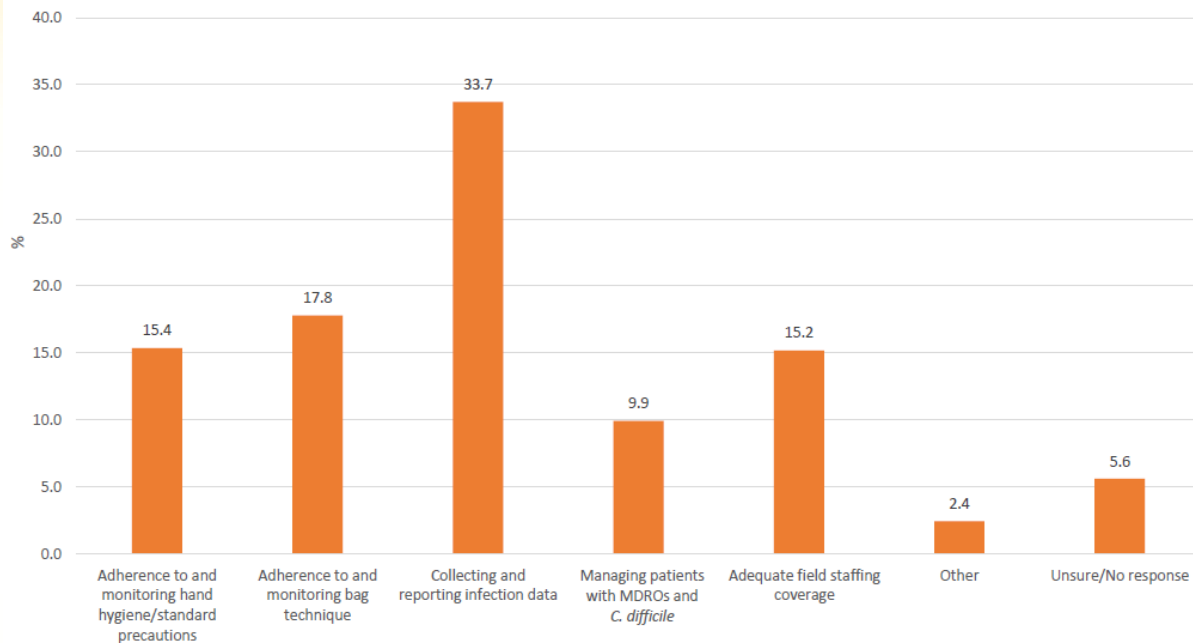
FREQUENTLY CITED JOINT COMMISSION HOME CARE STANDARDS



4 Source: The Joint Commission. (2020). *The Joint Commission Perspectives*, 40(4),13.

InHOME Study* : Nationwide Survey of HHCs

Most Challenging Aspect of IPC#



*<http://nursing.columbia.edu/research/InHome>; #n=534

The Home Care Nursing Bag

- Unique aspect of care in the home
- Noncritical item
- Fomite for potentially pathogenic organisms



The Nursing Bag as a Fomite for Pathogenic Microorganisms

- Outside nurses' bags:
 - 83.6% positive for human pathogens; 15.9% MDROs
- Inside nurses' bag:
 - 48.4% positive for human pathogens; 6.3% MDROs
- Patient care equipment inside nurses' bags:
 - 43.7% positive for human pathogens; 5.6% MDROs

Source: Bakunas-Kenneley, I., Madigan, L. (2009). Infection prevention and control in home health care: The nurse's bag. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 37(8), 687-8.

“Bag Technique”: Best Practices

- When not to bring in the home
- Hand hygiene
- Bag placement:
 - In the home
 - During interim storage
- Routine sanitizing:
 - Exterior
 - Interior
- Management of equipment and supplies:
 - Stored in the bag
 - Removed from the bag



Source: McGoldrick, M. (2020). Cleaning and Disinfection. *Home Care Infection Prevention and Control Program*.

McGoldrick, M. (2019). Nursing bags manufactured with embedded antimicrobials. *Home Healthcare Now*, 37(3), 178-179;

McGoldrick, M. (2017). Best practices for home care “bag technique” and the use of surface barriers. *Home Healthcare Now*, 35(9), 478-484.

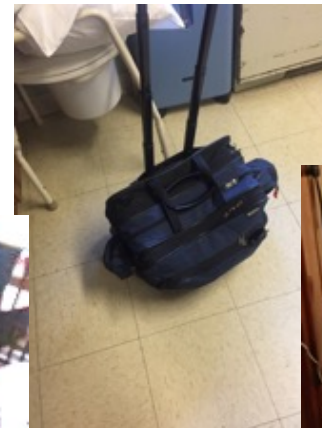
COVID-19 Bag Contents

- Personal protective equipment
- Disinfectant wipes
- Surface barriers
- Paper bags
- Hand hygiene supplies
- Supplementary items:
 - Single-use items
 - Reusable items



“Bag Technique”: Common Compliance Issues

- Hand hygiene
- Personal protective equipment
- Surface barrier



Hand Hygiene: Common Compliance Issues

- Indications
- Technique
- Product usage and storage
- Other considerations



Indications for Performing Hand Hygiene: Common Compliance Issues

Staff:

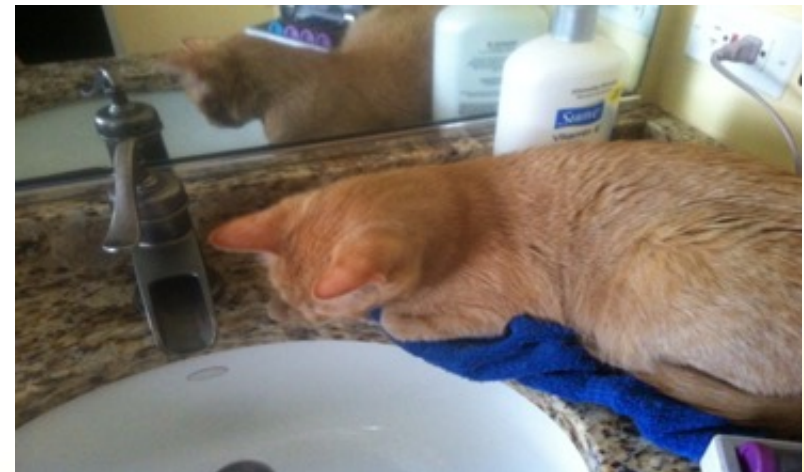
- Before and after having direct contact with patient
- Before donning PPE
- Before performing an aseptic procedure
- After contact with patient's immediate environment
- After contact with blood body fluids, or contaminated surfaces
- After removing PPE

Patients receiving facility-based hospice care:

- Before meals
- After toileting

Hand Hygiene Technique: Common Compliance Issues

- Soap and water:
 - Rub hands together vigorously for a minimum of 20 seconds covering all surfaces
 - Hand drying
 - Use towel to turn off faucet/tap
- Alcohol-based hand hygiene product:
 - Cover all surfaces of hands & fingers, until hands are dry
- WHO hand hygiene technique



McGoldrick, M. (2017). Hand hygiene in the home setting: Technique matters. *Home Healthcare Now*, 35(9), 454-455.

Hand Hygiene Product Usage and Storage: Common Compliance Issues

- Hand lotion or cream access
- Partially empty container
- Product used
- Alcohol-based hand hygiene:
 - Storage location
 - Expiration dating
 - When not to use



“Other” Hand Hygiene Common Compliance Issues

Policies:

- Rings
- Jewelry
- Nail polish
- Artificial nails
- Nail tip length
- Skin condition
- Bandages and splints



Disinfection Compliance Issues

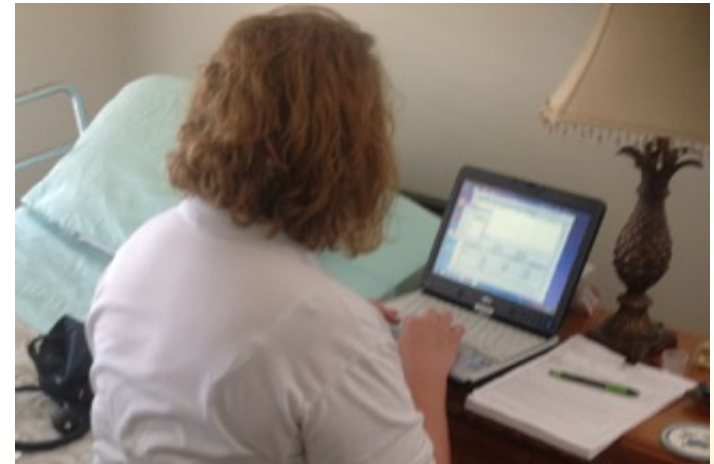
- Surface disinfection technique:
 - Vital sign equipment
 - Blood pressure cuff
 - Scale
- Point-of-care testing equipment:
 - CoaguChek machine
- Electronic equipment



Source: McGoldrick, M. (2016). Prothrombin monitoring: Cleaning and disinfecting prothrombin monitoring equipment. *Home Healthcare Now*, 34(10), 574;
McGoldrick, M. (2016). Preventing contamination of portable computers. *Home Healthcare Now*, 34(4), 221;
McGoldrick, M. (2016). Preventing the transfer of pathogenic organisms from the use of a mobile phone. *Home Healthcare Now*, 34(1), 45.

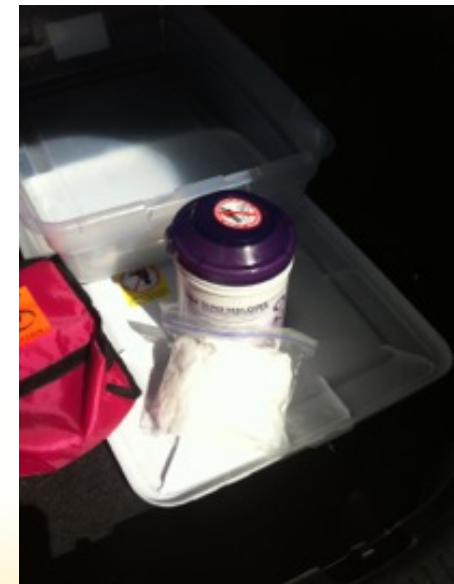
Infection Prevention And Control Breaches Capturing The Patient's Signature

- Patient's skin contamination:
 - Tablet/laptop's mousepad/mobile phone surfaces not cleaned and disinfected prior to direct contact by the patient
 - Stylet not cleaned and disinfected prior to the patient's use
 - Hand hygiene not performed after contact
- Equipment contamination:
 - Mobile device placed directly on a surface in the home and no cleaning and disinfecting after use



Home Care Disinfection: Common Compliance Issues

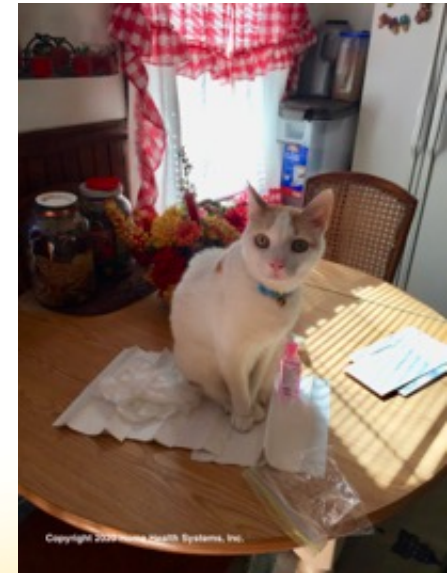
- Storage:
 - Repackaging
 - Temperature
 - Closure
- Product selected:
 - Antiseptic vs. disinfectant
- Personal protective equipment:
 - Skin contact
- First aid



Source: McGoldrick, M. (2016). Protecting the staff when using disinfectants in the home. *Home Healthcare Now*, 34(9), 523.

Companion Animals in the Home Setting

- Domestic companion animals:
 - Dogs
 - Cats



Source: McGoldrick, M. (2020). Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* transmission in the home. *Home Healthcare Now*, 38(2), 360-361.

COVID-19: Focused Infection Control Surveys

- Effectiveness of the Infection Prevention and Control Program (IPCP)
- IPCP policies and procedures
- Surveillance activities
- Implementation of Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions
- Quality of patient care practices, including patients with COVID-19
- Patient, family and staff education
- Staff health monitoring and screening practices
- Emergency management policies addressing staffing issues

Summary

- Common infection prevention and control findings identified during home care and hospice surveys
- Infection prevention and control strategies to prevent common survey compliance issues in the home
- Continue to self-assess and improve the infection prevention and control program
- *Most importantly*, prevent infections in both staff and home care and hospice patients

Questions?

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