

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

March 10, 2022, 3:00 pm ET

Participants

Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Mike Lin, Hilary Babcock, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Mark Russi, Connie Steed, Julie Trivedi, Deborah Yokoe

CDC: Sydney Byrd, Mike Bell, Abigail Carlson, Ryan Fagan, Fernanda Lessa, Melissa Schaefer, Devon Schmucker, Erin Stone, Matt Stuckey, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Roll call
- Discussion: creating the proposed timeline to be presented at HICPAC
- Discussion: drafting Part 1 (white paper) outline options
- Next Steps

Discussion Summary

Proposed Timeline

- The goal is to complete the white paper section in a year.
 - The group will present a draft to be voted on at the November HICPAC meeting.
 - Once approved, the draft will go through the clearance process and subsequently be posted to the Federal Register for public comment.
- Dr. Bell reviewed the purpose and scope of the white paper, which will be Part 1 of the overall update.
 - It will explain how we are thinking about the transmission of infectious diseases, the evidence to support that thinking, the framework we want to propose as an updated way of thinking about that transmission, and the interventions we want to describe to prevent that transmission.
 - It will be concise and easily accessible on mobile devices.

Drafting Part 1 Outline Options

After pausing to do introductions, the group discussed Part 1 outline options.

- Dr. Lin shared a spreadsheet of the 2007 guideline contents and his and Dr. Wright's initial recommendations of what to keep in this update and what to exclude.
 - This is a living document the group can refer to and update as decisions are made.
- The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing, discussing, and updating the spreadsheet.
- A member asked if it makes sense to crosswalk between the two documents because the concept for the update is so different from the old guideline.
 - The concept for the update is different from the 2007 document, which will eventually be retired, so this spreadsheet will help track what belongs in this update and what needs to be put into other guidance or be referenced elsewhere.
 - The Core Practices document will also need updating, so it's important to track where that document references the 2007 document.
- The group discussed if this update will address settings for populations such as pediatric and immunocompromised patients.
 - Part 1 of this update is meant to be foundational and will feed into other guidances that are population and location specific.
 - There will probably need to be future guidance that builds off of this whitepaper.
 - This document will be for everyone, regardless of setting.

- We hope to partner with various groups to aid in translating how this core piece will be applied in different settings.
- The group discussed the need to point to resources that contain important information from the 2007 document that will not be in the whitepaper.
- The Core Practices document is a HICPAC document, so there have been discussions about going through the process of making it a CDC Guideline.
- The Infection Control in Healthcare Personnel Guideline can also be referenced.
- The group will need to reimagine how the information will be organized.
- Some topics (e.g., patient transport) straddle core practices and transmission-based practices, so may need to be addressed in both documents.
- There could be a column in Appendix A that addresses room placement.
- A member commented that the 2007 document does not address screening people as they enter a healthcare facility, which has become more standard practice since Ebola and especially during the pandemic.
 - This is addressed in Core Practices but could be more robust.
- The group agreed it will be important to reinforce the definition of Standard Precautions.
 - Standard Precautions are for every patient, whether they are infectious or not.
 - The group decided it may be necessary to change what we call Standard Precautions (e.g., universal vs standard).
- It will be important to track information excluded from the 2007 document and decide where it should go or determine if it has been superseded by other resources.
- The group discussed the importance of deciding from a regulatory perspective, how and when the 2007 document will be sunsetted.

Next Steps

- At the next meeting, the group will discuss presenting the goals and charge of this workgroup to HICPAC.

With no additional comments or questions, the call adjourned at 4:02 pm ET.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for March 21, 2022, at 3 pm ET.