Infection Control Fundamentals for Long Term Care & Senior Living

Syllabus

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Module 1 - Role of the IPAC Lead

Overview

Module 1 introduces learners to the role of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Lead within Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH). It outlines the legislative framework governing infection control, essential components of a strong IPAC program, and the qualifications and competencies required for an effective IPAC Lead. The module also explores the IPAC Canada Competency Model and emphasizes the importance of a resident-centred approach to promote safe and effective care. Through this foundational module, learners gain an understanding of the responsibilities, skill sets, and interdisciplinary collaboration involved in leading IPAC efforts.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify key legislative requirements related to IPAC in LTCHs.
2. List essential components of an effective IPAC program.
3. Describe the responsibilities and qualifications of an IPAC Lead.
4. Recognize the importance of resident-centred care and safe practice in infection control.

Module Outline

1. Legislation Relating to IPAC in LTCH
2. Key Components to an IPAC Program
3. IPAC Canada's Core Competencies
4. Education and Experience of an IPAC Lead
5. Roles of an IPAC Lead
6. Roles of an IPAC Lead Outside of IPAC
7. Path to CIC
8. Routine Practices & Additional Precautions
9. Surveillance & Epidemiology
10. Research Utilization
11. Building your IPAC Program
12. Interdisciplinary Teamwork

Module 2 - Managing the Infection Prevention and Control Program

Overview

Module 2 provides learners with a foundational understanding of how to manage an effective Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Program in Long-Term Care Homes. It outlines the leadership and management roles of the IPAC Lead, including key operational functions such as planning, budgeting, team development, and performance evaluation. The module also introduces the four phases of project management and offers strategies for building effective teams and meetings. Learners will explore the components of a comprehensive IPAC program and apply best practices to ensure successful planning and implementation.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the leadership and management responsibilities of the IPAC Lead.
2. List and describe three key management functions within the IPAC program.
3. Recognize the phases of a project and their role in program implementation.
4. Recall best practices for developing and managing an IPAC program.

Module Outline

1. Leadership & Management
2. Management Qualities
3. Operational Management Functions
4. Strategic and Operational Planning
5. The Infection Prevention & Control Plan
6. Using Data for Planning
7. Financial Planning & Management: Budgets
8. Personnel Selection
9. Personnel Development
10. Personnel Performance Appraisal
11. IPAC Canada's Supporting Core Competencies
12. 7 Keys to Successful Meetings
13. Team Building: Common Problems
14. Tuckman Model of Team Stages
15. Elements of the IPAC Program
16. IPAC Program Functions
17. Best Practices for Developing the IPAC Program

Module 3 - Monitoring the Health of the Community

Overview

Module 3 introduces the role of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Lead in supporting the health of staff within long-term care settings. It outlines how proactive measures such as employee health screening, vaccinations, and outbreak prevention strategies help reduce the risk of disease transmission. The module emphasizes the importance of monitoring staff health, managing exposures to infectious diseases, and supporting employees through follow-up and education. Through clear guidance on practices like TB testing, bloodborne pathogen control, and vaccination promotion, learners will understand how the IPAC Lead helps create a safer care environment.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the IPAC Lead's role in supporting employee health and safety.
2. List key strategies used to prevent outbreaks in long-term care.
3. Recognize conditions that require screening, vaccination, or isolation.
4. Recall steps for post-exposure follow-up and managing common infestations.

Module Outline

1. Employee Health Framework
2. Considerations for Healthcare Personnel
3. Tuberculosis
4. Personnel Performance Appraisal
5. Booster Phenomenon: TST
6. Bloodborne Pathogen Prevention & Control
7. Post-Exposure Follow-Up
8. Point-of-Care Blood Testing
9. Vaccine-Preventable Illnesses
10. Influenza Vaccination
11. Presenteeism
12. Infestations
13. Lice
14. Scabies

Module 4 - Quality Assurance in Long Term Care

Overview

Module 4 covers the essential concepts of Quality Assurance (QA) in long-term care, emphasizing the role of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) in maintaining high standards of care. This module highlights the requirements for quality assessment and assurance, and the importance of ongoing evaluation and improvement within long-term care settings. Learners will understand how to assess their current QA programs, identify strengths and gaps, and implement strategies for continuous improvement. A key focus will be on developing a written improvement plan to enhance the effectiveness of the quality assurance process.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Define the key components of Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (QA/QI) in long-term care.
2. Identify strengths and gaps in the current quality assurance program.
3. Develop a written plan for improving the quality of care based on identified gaps.

Module Outline

1. Quality Assessment & Assurance (QAA)
2. LQIP
3. Quality Assurance and IPAC

Module 5 - Interdisciplinary Services

Overview

Module 5 highlights the significance of interdisciplinary services in maintaining effective Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) practices within long-term care settings. This module explores how various services, including nursing, therapy, food services, and others, contribute to IPAC and impact infection control efforts. It emphasizes the role of the environment in pathogen transmission, the importance of ongoing oversight, and the need for consistent follow-up to ensure best practices are maintained. Learners will gain an understanding of the collaborative approach required to support infection control through interdisciplinary services.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Explain how various services impact Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) practices.
2. Identify the role of the environment in the transmission of infections.
3. Describe the importance of oversight and follow-up in maintaining effective infection control measures

Module Outline

1. Cleaning & Disinfection at the Point of Care
2. Nursing and Therapy
3. Life Enrichment
4. Beauty Shops
5. Prevent Foodborne Illness
6. Temperature
7. Potential Food Hazards
8. Equipment Cleaning
9. Dishwasher & Washing
10. Hand Hygiene in Food Service
11. Linen
12. Rehabilitation
13. Laboratory
14. Pharmacy

Module 6 - Personal Protective Equipment

Overview

Module 6 covers the essentials of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), a crucial element in infection prevention and control (IPAC) strategies. This module provides learners with a comprehensive understanding of PPE, its proper use, storage, and maintenance. It includes practical instructions for donning and doffing various types of PPE and emphasizes the importance of respiratory etiquette and wound care. Additionally, the module distinguishes between standard precautions and additional precautions, ensuring

learners are equipped to follow best practices for minimizing the risk of infection transmission in healthcare settings.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Define Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and its role in infection prevention.
2. Describe the correct storage and maintenance procedures for PPE.
3. Demonstrate the proper donning and doffing process for PPE.
4. Differentiate between standard precautions and additional precautions, including respiratory etiquette and wound care.

Module Outline

1. High C's of IPAC
2. What is PPE
3. Standard Precautions
4. Fundamental Elements of Standard Precaution
5. How to Hand Wash
6. How to Hand Rub
7. Education, Recognition, and Feedback
8. Your Standard Precaution
9. How to Wear a Surgical Mask
10. PPE Donning
11. PPE Doffing
12. Limiting Transmission of Respiratory Pathogens
13. Safe Injection Practice – Preventing Sharp Injuries
14. Sharps Injury Program
15. Definitions and Strategies to Contain Illness
16. Additional Precautions
17. Build Your Performance Approval Plan
18. Important PPE Observations
19. Alcohol-Based Hand Rub (ABHR)
20. Using Aseptic Technique for Proper Wound Care
21. Safe Handling of Topical Medicines

Module 7 - Infectious Diseases

Overview

Module 7 focuses on infectious diseases, providing learners with essential knowledge on the identification, prevention, and control of a range of pathogens, including multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) and bloodborne viruses. This module emphasizes the critical role of the IPAC Lead in recognizing these threats and actively participating in antimicrobial stewardship programs. The course highlights the importance of understanding viruses involved in bloodborne pathogen transmission and the need for strict adherence to standard precautions. By the end of the module, learners will be equipped to identify key organisms responsible for outbreaks and implement effective control strategies.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify common multidrug-resistant organisms and understand their impact on infection prevention and control.
2. Participate actively in their facility's antimicrobial stewardship program to help combat antimicrobial resistance.
3. Recognize the viruses involved in bloodborne pathogen transmission and emphasize the importance of standard precautions.
4. Identify organisms responsible for outbreaks and implement effective infection control plans.

Module Outline

1. Group A Streptococcus Pyogenes
2. Staphylococcus Aureus
3. Antibiotic-Resistant Organisms
4. Prevention & Control
5. Multidrug-Resistant Organisms
6. Extensively Drug-Resistant Organisms
7. Bloodborne Pathogens
8. HIV
9. Hepatitis B
10. Hepatitis C
11. COVID-19 (SARS Co-V2)

12. Importance of Identifying Circulating Viruses
13. PHAC Isolation Precautions
14. Multiple Viruses in the Same Cohort
15. Norovirus

Module 8 - Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation

Overview

Module 8 explores the role of surveillance in infection prevention and control (IPAC), emphasizing its importance in monitoring health trends and identifying outbreaks. This module introduces the fundamental concepts of epidemiologic investigation, including data collection, outcome selection, and reporting. Learners will gain practical insights into how surveillance practices are implemented and applied within the context of an IPAC program, helping them contribute effectively to early detection and response efforts.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Describe the role of surveillance in an IPAC program and its importance in identifying trends and outbreaks.
2. Explain the practical applications of surveillance practices and methodologies in infection prevention.
3. Identify the processes involved in selecting appropriate outcomes and reporting findings in an IPAC context.

Module Outline

1. What is Surveillance?
2. Assessing the Population
3. Selecting the Outcome or Process
4. Reporting
5. Line Listing
6. Surveillance Methodology Terms

Module 9 - COVID-19 Basics

Overview

Module 9 provides foundational knowledge about COVID-19, emphasizing its symptoms, transmission routes, and infection prevention strategies. It covers the evolution of the disease, testing protocols, and the importance of following public health guidelines. Learners will explore recommendations for personal protective equipment (PPE), when additional precautions should be discontinued, and the issue of vaccine hesitancy, ensuring that they are equipped with the latest information to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in long-term care environments.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Recognize the symptoms of COVID-19 and identify the routes of transmission.
2. Explain key infection prevention strategies for managing COVID-19.
3. Understand the different types of COVID-19 tests and their purpose.
4. Stay informed by following public health guidelines and understanding the latest requirements.

Module Outline

1. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
2. Timeline of Early Stages
3. Long-Term Care Home Data for COVID-19
4. Do You Have COVID-19?
5. Recommendations for PPE Usage
6. When to Discontinue Additional Precautions
7. Covid-19 Testing
8. Vaccine Hesitancy

Module 10 - Infectious Disease Process: Basic Microbiology

Overview

Module 10 explores the foundational concepts of microbiology with a focus on the role of bacteria in long-term care (LTC) settings. It highlights the types of bacteria that can contribute to infection, as well as those that are essential for health but may pose risks if imbalanced. The module covers essential microbiological principles, including the distinctions between gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. It emphasizes the

importance of collaboration with local laboratories to support infection prevention and control (IPAC) efforts.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the types of bacteria that are relevant in the LTC environment.
2. Describe the role of friendly bacteria and how they can become sources of infection.
3. Differentiate between gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria.
4. Explain the importance of building a relationship with local laboratories for effective IPAC management.

Module Outline

1. Naming Microorganisms
2. Friendly Bacteria
3. Important Definitions
4. Other Identification Testing
5. Gram-Positive Bacteria
6. Gram-Negative Bacteria
7. How Can the Lab Assist the IPAC Lead?
8. Specimen Handling

Module 11 - Multidrug-Resistant Organisms

Overview

Module 11 focuses on the clinical significance of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in long-term care homes (LTCH). It examines how these organisms pose unique challenges to both residents and infection prevention and control (IPAC) programs. The module explores the mechanisms behind antimicrobial resistance, the species that are most problematic in healthcare settings, and strategies for preventing and controlling MDRO transmission.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Define multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) and understand their clinical significance.
2. Identify the species of MDROs that pose specific challenges in LTCH settings.
3. Explain how antimicrobial resistance occurs and how healthcare settings contribute to its development.
4. Describe strategies to prevent and control MDRO transmission within LTCH environments.

Module Outline

1. What is MDRO?
2. How Does Antimicrobial Resistance Happen?
3. Common Pathways
4. WHO Priority MDROs?
5. How Does Healthcare Contribute to MDROs?
6. Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)
7. Beta-Lactamase Producing Bacteria
8. Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase (ESBL)
9. Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)
10. How to Prevent and Control MDRO Transmission
11. Burdsall's High C's

Module 12 - Influenza and Vaccination

Overview

Module 11 focuses on understanding influenza, its characteristics, and the role of vaccination in controlling outbreaks. The module clarifies common misconceptions about the influenza vaccine, the necessary management components for handling influenza outbreaks, and the requirements for proper vaccine storage in healthcare settings.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Describe the characteristics of the influenza virus.
2. Address common misconceptions about the influenza vaccine.
3. Explain the management components of influenza outbreaks.
4. Identify the requirements for proper storage and handling of the influenza vaccine.

Module Outline

1. Influenza
2. Campaigns
3. Control of Influenza Virus

Section 3: Best IPAC Practices for Antimicrobial Stewardship

Module 13 - Antimicrobial Resistance and Stewardship

Overview

Module 13 explores antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the importance of antimicrobial stewardship in controlling the spread of resistant organisms. It emphasizes the role of the IPAC Lead in understanding and implementing key elements of a successful stewardship program and highlights the need for teamwork in tackling this challenge.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Understand antimicrobial resistance and its impact on healthcare.
2. Describe key elements of a successful antimicrobial stewardship program.
3. Recognize the importance of teamwork in antimicrobial stewardship efforts.

Module Outline

1. Evolution of Antimicrobial Resistance
2. Antimicrobial Therapy
3. Defining Antimicrobial Stewardship

Module 14 - Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization in Long-Term Care

Overview

Module 14 focuses on the essential practices of cleaning, disinfection, sanitization, sterilization, and decontamination in long-term care settings. Learners will understand the distinctions between these processes, the importance of choosing appropriate products, and the critical role of environmental management in infection prevention.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Differentiate between cleaning, disinfection, sanitization, sterilization, and decontamination.
2. Select appropriate cleaning and disinfecting products for different areas in the facility.
3. Understand the impact of environmental factors on infection control and cross-contamination.

Module Outline

1. Important Factors to Keep a Safe Environment
2. Spaulding Classification for Medical Devices
3. Order of Resistance
4. Low-Level Disinfectants (LLD)
5. Intermediate–Level Disinfectants
6. High-Level Disinfection (HLD)
7. How Long Do Pathogens Live on Surfaces?
8. Role of the Environment: Cross Contamination
9. Monitoring Cleaning Practices
10. Using Disinfectants
11. How to Choose Cleaners and Disinfectants
12. Frequency of Routine Cleaning
13. Management of Laundry and Waste

Module 15 - Device-Associated Infections

Overview

Module 15 explores the risks and challenges associated with inserted medical devices and their potential for causing infections. It covers the concept of biofilm formation, treatment options, and evidence-based practices to mitigate the risk of device-associated infections, along with applying this knowledge to real-world case studies.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Discuss the risks associated with the use of inserted medical devices.
2. Understand treatment strategies for device-associated infections.
3. Identify evidence-based practices to reduce the risk of infection related to medical devices.

4. Apply knowledge of infection risks and best practices to case studies to determine infection classifications.

Module Outline

1. Devices and Biofilm
2. Biofilm

Module 16 - Outbreak Investigation

Overview

Module 16 focuses on the key steps involved in investigating outbreaks, understanding their control and prevention measures, and applying basic statistical tools in outbreak investigation. Learners will explore real-world scenarios and develop skills to manage and investigate outbreaks effectively.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Explain the steps involved in investigating outbreaks.
2. Describe three measures used to control and prevent outbreaks.
3. Identify three basic statistical measures used in outbreak investigation.

Module Outline

1. Outbreak, Epidemic and Pandemics
2. How to Control Outbreaks
3. Objectives of an Outbreak Investigation
4. Practice Cohort Scenario
5. Staff Cohorting

Module 17 - The IPAC Lead As An Educator

Overview

Module 17 focuses on the IPAC Lead's role as an educator within the facility. Learners will explore effective teaching methods, strategies for combating misinformation, and how to

design and implement educational programs that address the needs of diverse adult learners. By the end of this module, learners will be equipped with tools to create and deliver impactful training and in-service education.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Describe the five steps in developing an effective education program.
2. Identify three strategies to combat misinformation in educational settings.
3. Explain the key components of adult learning principles and how to apply them in IPAC education.

Module Outline

1. Needs Assessment
2. Combating Misinformation
3. Effective Inservice Education
4. Adult Learning
5. 5 Steps To Successful Teaching
6. What Type of Training is Needed?
7. The Learning Pyramid
8. The PIE Model

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