

IPAC Detective: Crack the Case!

The Maple Wing mini mystery - a 10-minute team challenge

01 CASE BRIEF

YOUR MISSION

Three Maple Wing residents develop new vomiting and/or loose stool within 24 hours. The organism and route are unknown. Review the six clues, choose priorities and decide what the team should do next.

02 EVIDENCE BOARD

1 THE SHARED COMMODE

A commode moved from Room 214 to Room 216. The cleaning field between uses is blank.

2 THE QUICK WIPE

The disinfectant label requires 3 minutes wet contact time. A staff member recalls a quick wipe.

3 THE EARLY NOTE

Symptoms were recorded at 06:30 but not discussed or escalated until the 09:30 report.

4 THE BREAKFAST VISIT

The symptomatic resident attended breakfast before assessment and precautions began.

5 THE EMPTY HOLDER

No hand hygiene product was on the snack cart; resident hand hygiene was not offered.

6 THE NIGHT RESPONSE

The night nurse assessed the resident, notified the charge nurse and began symptom-based precautions.

03 TEAM DECISION

1. Circle the THREE clues to address first: 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. Potential route(s): HANDS | EQUIPMENT | ENVIRONMENT | OTHER: _____

3. First immediate action: _____

4. One system improvement: _____

Write short answers and defend them with evidence.

04 FACILITATOR KEY

KEEP THIS PANEL HIDDEN

Fold back or cut along the dashed line.

STRONGEST PRIORITIES

Clues 1-5 identify risks. Strong teams often prioritize delayed symptom action (3-4), shared-commode disinfection (1-2), and hand hygiene access (5). Accept other choices with sound reasoning.

POTENTIAL ROUTES

Hands, shared equipment and environmental surfaces are plausible. The clues do not prove one source or confirm that all illnesses are linked.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

Assess affected residents; notify the clinical lead and IPAC Lead; begin monitoring or a line list as required; start symptom-based controls; dedicate or correctly disinfect equipment; reinforce hand hygiene and cleaning; follow reporting processes.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Create rapid symptom escalation, stock supplies, assign shared-equipment cleaning, verify contact time and reassign incomplete cleaning tasks.

POSITIVE PRACTICE

Clue 6 shows prompt assessment, notification and initiation of the home's symptom-based precautions.

SCORING / 10

1 point per risk recognized (5) + 2 for a safe first action + 2 for a system fix + 1 for identifying uncertainty.