

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Hospital infection prevention (IP) is best performed by teams of educated and motivated individuals who work directly to improve the practices in their own clinical area.

Although UCLA Clinical Epidemiology and Infection Prevention (CEIP) can launch and coordinate projects and initiatives, the success of these efforts lies squarely on the unit level where healthcare workers including clinical nurses and physicians, interface directly with patients.

Nursing interest in additional infection prevention training was generated after the 2012 Infection Prevention FUNdamentals conference which focused on protecting patients from hospital acquired infections. As a result, nurses requested additional IP training that is didactic, interactive, could be used to educate fellow healthcare workers, and could be applicable to daily bedside clinical practice.

CEIP has developed an Infection Prevention Nurse Leaders didactic and interactive curriculum in order to provide additional training in IP, develop a cadre of knowledgeable nurse leaders that can help initiate, coordinate, and disseminate IP initiatives, empower nurses to educate peers on correct application of IP, and create nurse unit level IP leadership.

This curriculum will include an evidence-based practical approach to IP and will contribute to continuous quality improvement at the bedside and unit level. The curriculum will also focus on developing leadership skills, interpreting epidemiologic data, and using evidence-based practice. Through this comprehensive curriculum, nurses will feel empowered to put IP into practice and create a culture of safety and quality improvement.

**CURRICULUM**

The Infection Prevention Leadership program curriculum includes pre-course preparation, a half-day introduction to IP session, and mandatory participation in eight electives over 12 months.

Prerequisite: Before attending the required course, watch a computer-based, video simulation training program on IP practices. This training highlights effective communication about IP practices and ideas for creating a "culture of safety" in healthcare institutions.

**Estimated time: 1 hour**

Required Course: In person attendance at a 6-hour core IP meeting. Core IP topics including hand hygiene, isolation precautions, and the environment will be taught during a 4-hour session that includes didactic, case-based sessions, and demonstrations. An additional 2-hour session will focus on understanding IP epidemiology data reports and leadership training, including how to have difficult conversations.

**Estimated time: 6 hours total**

Electives: Attend a total of 8 electives. There will be 12, 1-hour lunch time presentations on a different IP topic. Topics will range from *Clostridium difficile*, central line associated blood stream infection (CLABSI), catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI), ventilator-

associated pneumonia (VAP), multidrug resistant organisms/carbapenem resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE), antimicrobial stewardship, and other topics. If you cannot attend in person, all sessions will be recorded and posted online for later viewing. There is no limit on the number of electives taken, but a minimum of eight must be completed.

**Estimated time: 8 hours total over 12 months, eight 1-hour lectures**

Full course descriptions as well as a lecture plan for electives can be found here:

<http://infectionprevention.mednet.ucla.edu/file/45219/NurseIPLeadersCurriculum.pdf> .

### EXPECTATIONS

The Infection Prevention Nurse Leader will be instructed on UCLA IP policies and practices. As a nurse Infection Prevention Leader, expectations include:

- **Education** – attend all courses (prerequisite, required courses, 8 electives)
- **Leadership** – act as an Infection Prevention Leader on your unit
- **Empowerment** - Disseminate and coordinate IP efforts on the nursing unit level, providing leadership as needed, initiate and implement IP project in coordination with UCLA CEIP

### HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in becoming an Infection Prevention Nurse Leader, please contact your unit director. The first academy will begin January 2014.