

Standard for Infection Control

Members are responsible for maintaining a safe, clean work environment. They must follow evidence-based procedures to minimize the risk of transmitting infectious agents.

Infectious agents are micro-organisms that cause infection or disease. The four most common types of infectious agents are viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites.

This standard addresses the following principles:

[Principle 1: Members must keep their knowledge of infection control current.](#)

[Principle 2: Members must assess the risks for contamination and transmission of infectious agents.](#)

[Principle 3: Members must carry out infection control procedures.](#)

Principle 1: Members must keep their knowledge of infection control current.

Infection control procedures are the steps that healthcare workers must take to prevent infection from taking place or spreading in the healthcare setting. Infection control procedures are based on how an infectious agent is transmitted. This includes transmission between patients, from patients to healthcare workers, and from healthcare workers to patients.

Evidence-based procedures are steps that the member follows based on solid, up-to-date research. Members must keep their knowledge of evidence-based infection control procedures up to date.

Applying the principle to practice

Members should use resources such as the College's [Safety Program Handbook](#). They must be able to identify the infection risks that can occur in the practice of traditional Chinese medicine, and any changes to infection control procedures.

Record Keeping

Members should keep infection control resources on file to help guide their practice.

Principle 2: Members must assess the risks for contamination and transmission of infectious agents

Members must identify the risks within their practice setting (the internal practice environment). They must also be aware of risks present in their community and region (the external practice environment).

Applying the principle to practice

When they assess risks in the internal practice environment, members should consider:

- The type of treatment planned for the patient
- The patient's overall health condition
- The health and immunization status of people in the practice environment. This includes other patients, practitioners, and staff.

When they assess risks in the external practice environment, members should consider:

- The time of year (For example, winter months will likely have an increase in colds and the flu.)
- Outbreaks of infectious diseases in the community
- Information released by public health officials ([Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [Ontario Public Health](#), municipal health authorities)

Record Keeping

Members should keep a record of their risk assessments to guide their infection control procedures.

Principle 3 – Members must carry out infection control procedures.

Members must create and carry out infection control procedures guided by the results of their risk assessment.

Applying the principle to practice

As a minimum, members must have infection control procedures in place for:

- Hand washing and personal hygiene
- Using personal protective barriers (such as gloves, gowns, and masks)
- Cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilizing equipment and the practice environment
- Safely using and disposing of sharps and other biohazard waste.

Equipment and supplies

Members must have the resources needed to support infection control procedures. This includes:

- Sinks, liquid soap, and alcohol-based hand rubs
- Disinfectants
- Personal protective barriers
- Sharps disposal containers
- Biohazard waste containers

Workplace training

Members must ensure that all practitioners, staff, and patients are familiar with the infection control procedures.

Record Keeping

Members should keep a detailed inventory of infection control supplies.

Infection control procedures should be easy for members and staff to access.

Learn more about infection control:

[World Health Organization – Tools for Infection Control in Healthcare](#)

[Public Health Ontario – Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) – Online Learning](#)

[Public Health Ontario – Performing a Risk Assessment Related to Routine Practices and Additional Precautions](#)

[Public Health Ontario – Routine Practices Fact Sheet for all Healthcare Settings](#)

[Public Health Ontario – Best Practice Guidelines for Hand Hygiene](#)

[Public Health Ontario – Best Practice Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control](#)

[Public Health Ontario – Best Practice Guidelines for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization](#)

[Public Health Ontario – Best Practice Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) Canada – Evidence-based Guidelines](#)