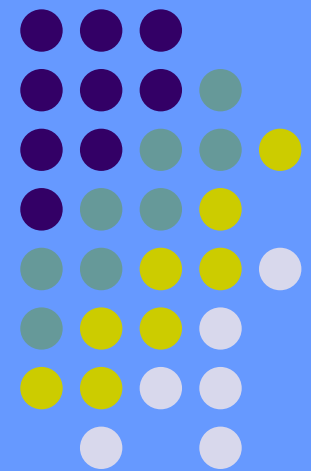


BASIC CONCEPTS OF INFECTION CONTROL

Audits in Infection Control

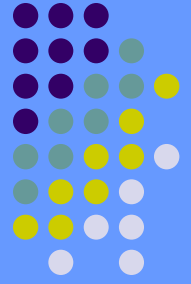
International Federation of
Infection Control



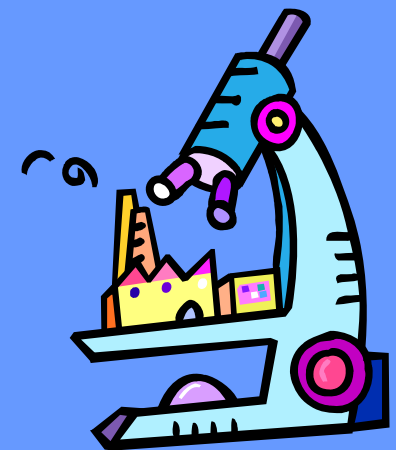
Introduction

Objectives of this presentation

- Define an infection control audit
- Describe the audit process
- Prepare the audit report



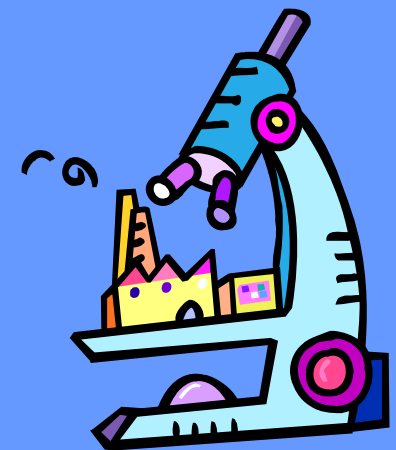
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The Infection Control Audit

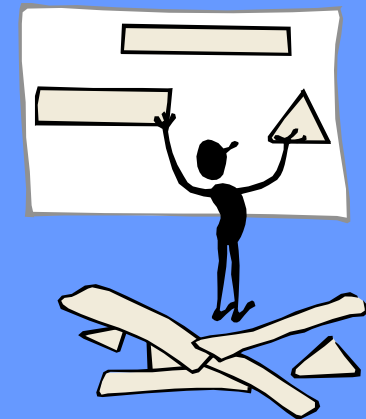
- Compliance with infection control policies and procedures is the overall objective
- A well constructed audit tool and process will permit objective measures of infection control practice
- Audit process identifies areas for improvement

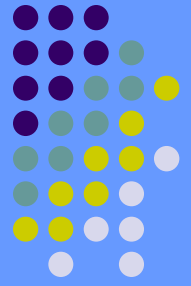


Why Infection Control Is Ideal for Audits



- Focus on patient and healthcare worker safety
- Standards are available to measure quality of care
- Ability to document change and improvement in practice over time





What It Means

- Practical and objective way to determine compliance
- Check actual practice against known standards and guidelines
- Identify risks of infections and unsafe practices for both patients and staff
- Communicate areas for improvement objectively
- Clearly outline action plans and responsibilities for implementation



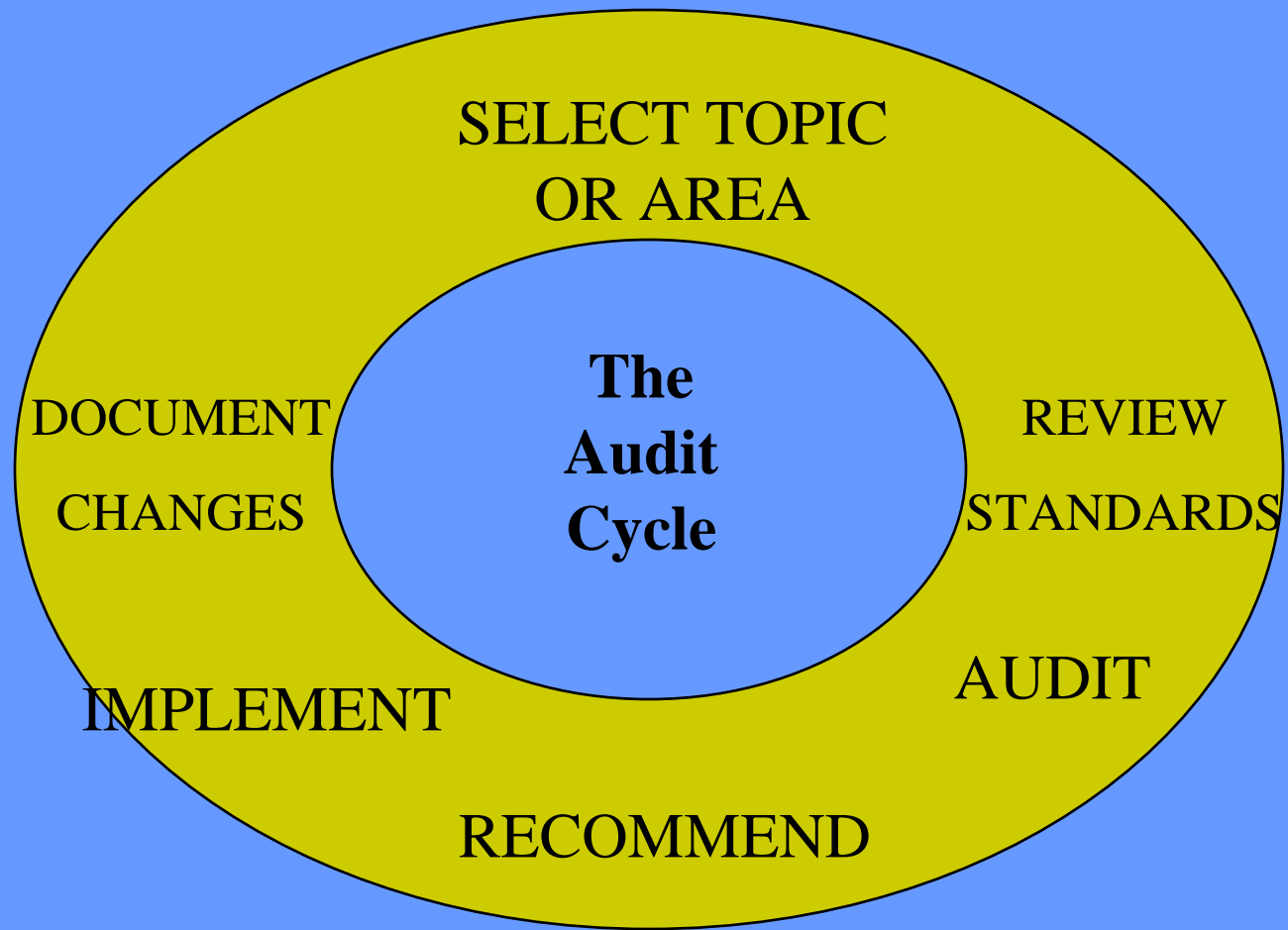


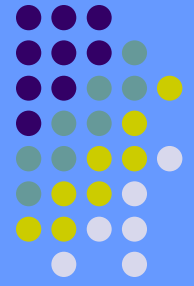
Audits

- To be effective, audits must:
 - Define the topic or area
 - Outline the appropriate practice standards
 - Observe and test against the selected standard
 - Identify areas for improvement
 - Implement change
 - Demonstrate improvement in practice



Improvement in Practice

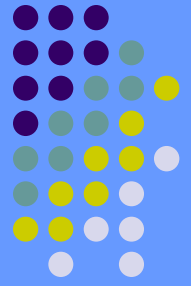




Audit Tools

- Templates to evaluate implementation of practice
- Tools should be validated and items should be scored (measurable)
- Examples
 - Hand hygiene audits
 - Review of CVC insertion and maintenance
 - Wound care



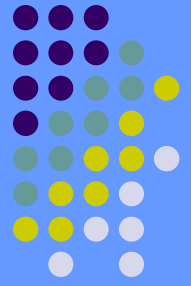


Audits

- Key elements when auditing include
 - Assessment of the physical plant (including traffic flow)
 - Review of policies, protocols, and procedures
 - Assessment of workplace practices
 - Assessment of health care worker knowledge and attitudes
- Should be flexible and reflect the service audited



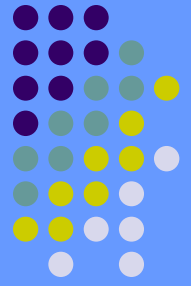
Involvement and Preparation of the Clinical Team



- Critical to ensure participation
- Important for HCWs to understand this is a collaborative process, not a punitive process
- Pre-audit meetings essential
 - Explain
 - Agree on goals and objectives
 - How audit will be conducted
 - How results will be reported
- Audit team formed and key decision makers involved



Assessment of Policy and Procedure



- Review each unit manual against a known set of standards
 - Example - review of the operating room includes comparison to Operating Room Nurses' standards
- Manuals should be clear, policies dated, and accessible to staff



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The Physical Plant

Review includes

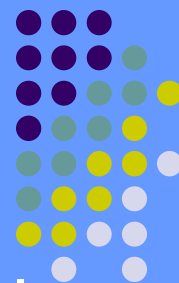
- Layout - with emphasis on soiled and clean utility rooms, patient and procedure rooms, equipment
- Assessment of traffic flow, air handling systems, sinks, level of cleanliness



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Workplace Practice Review



- Repeated observations of the infection control practices of all staff
- Use a standardized form
- Includes hand hygiene observations, selection and use of barrier protection, decontamination of body fluids spills, correct use of isolation protocols, specimen handling, and specific care procedures (e.g., urinary catheter care, skin & wound care)
- An investment in time!



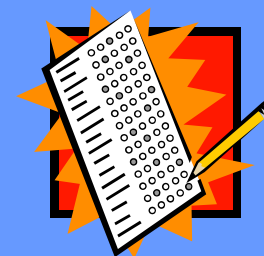
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Knowledge Assessment



- A questionnaire to assess knowledge of safe infection control practices
- Anonymous
 - Demographic information only to identify the professions and amount of past training/education
- Should reflect
 - Self-perceived knowledge
 - Actual knowledge
 - Knowledge in practice
- Measurable items that can be scored or ranked



The Audit Report

- Draft report written and reviewed by key staff prior to final version and distribution
- Allow opportunities to correct misperceptions and add additional comments by staff
- Prepare executive summary
- Clearly outlined with introduction, objectives, methodology, results and recommendations and timelines



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Remember

- The audit is meant to be a positive event
- Acknowledge and thank staff for their participation and support
- Overall goal is to promote good practice, improve patient care, and ensure HCW safety – i.e., a healthier work environment for all
- Don't forget to follow-up on all recommendations!

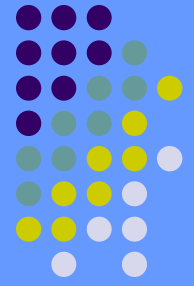


In Summary



- Audits are consistent processes for reviewing infection prevention and control policy and practice
- Good audit tools make the assessment as objective as possible
- Ultimate goal is to ensure a safe healthcare environment for patients, staff, and the public





Key Points

- Non-compliance with appropriate infection prevention and control policies and procedures may lead to outbreaks of infection
- A well-constructed audit tool will provide consistent benchmarking across the facility
- Audits can help improve quality, infection prevention practices, and patient safety



References and Further Reading



- Millward S, Barnett J, Tomlinson D. A clinical infection control audit programme. *J Hosp Infect* 1993; 24: 219-232
- Bryce EA, Scharf SL, Walker MM. Infection control practitioner audit form for patient/resident service units. *Canadian J Infect Control* 2002; 17:23-26
- Infection Control Nurses Association (ICNA), Department of Health UK, *Audit tools for monitoring infection control standards*, 2004





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