

## SEPTEMBER 2024 HIPC NEWSLETTER

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### Important Dates

| World Hand Hygiene Day-  
May 5th

| Global Handwashing day  
–October 15th

| AMR Awareness  
Week-18-24 November

| International Infection  
Prevention Week –Every  
3rd Week Of October

### Guideline Updates Quick Links

<https://www.docplexus.com/posts/occupational-health-and-safety-in-hospitals--pollution-concern>

<https://www.osha.gov/hospitals/mgmt-tools-resources>

[https://www.google.com/search?sc\\_a\\_esv=cd905eee47e8a54c&sca\\_upv=1&rIz=1C1FHFK\\_enIN1094IN1094&q=Aims+of+occupational+health&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj-qJuBjrIiAxUCzzgC](https://www.google.com/search?sc_a_esv=cd905eee47e8a54c&sca_upv=1&rIz=1C1FHFK_enIN1094IN1094&q=Aims+of+occupational+health&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj-qJuBjrIiAxUCzzgC)  
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## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY



### INTRODUCTION

One of the most effective ways to reduce workplace hazards and injuries is through a comprehensive, proactive safety and health management system. The benefits of implementing safety and health management systems include protecting workers, saving money, and making all your hazard-specific programs more effective. In hospitals, prioritizing safety in the environment of care reaps important additional benefits through improved quality of patient care.

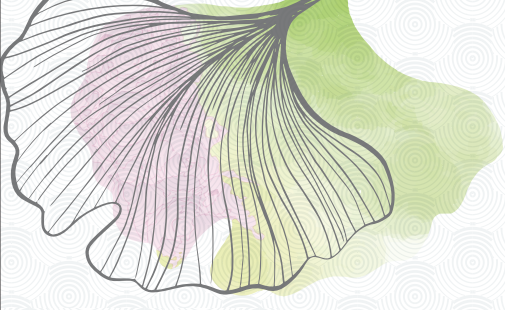
Occupational health and safety act (OSHA) was initiated to protect physicians, their co-workers and their employees from work-related illnesses and injuries. Environmental and occupational issues have an important place in primary care practice, emergency medicine, pediatrics, and various medical specialties

The protection of health and safety of health workers should be part of the core business of the health sector: to protect and restore health without causing harm to patients and workers. Safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of health workers can prevent diseases and injuries caused by work, while improving the quality and safety of care, human resources for health and environmental sustainability in the health sector.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- \* To Promote and maintain the highest degree of physical, social and mental well-being of employees.
- \* To prevent the adverse effects on the health of employees caused by their working conditions.
- \* To reduce injuries, accidents, infections and absenteeism.
- \* Protect the economy: By protecting the health and well-being of workers.





## **FUNCTIONS OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**

- \* Pre-employment medical examination
- \* First Aid and emergency service
- \* Supervision of the work environment for the control of dangerous substances in the work environment
- \* Special periodic medical examination particularly for the workers in dangerous operations
- \* Health education for disseminating information on specific hazards and risks in the work environment.

## **WORKERS AT RISK IN THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT**

### **HOSPITAL STAFF**

- o Medical staff
- o Cleaning staff
- o Laboratory techniques

### **EMPLOYEES OF HEALTHCARE (CONTRACTUAL) SERVICE**

- o Cleaning services
- o Property management
- o Environmental hygiene services: collection and disposal of healthcare waste

*An occupational health programme is essential for an effective IPC programme and has implications for patient safety. The components of such programme are;*

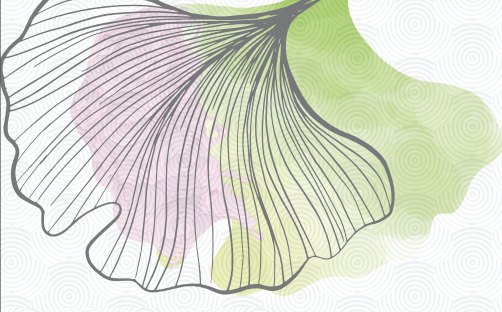
- \* Evaluation for general health of employees including infectious at entry, periodically as required
- \* Screening for vaccination for childhood communicable diseases (measles, rubella, chickenpox, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus)
- \* Hepatitis B status and immunization
- \* Influenza vaccine
- \* Screening for tuberculosis
- \* Surveillance and management of exposure risk: hazard identification, risk assessment and control, post – exposure management.
- \* Education and training.

### **Hazards in the healthcare environment**

- Physical: eg. Injuries while lifting, shifting patients
- Chemical: eg. Exposure to toxic chemicals such as disinfectants
- Biological: eg. infections transmitted in the healthcare environment
- Radiation: eg. Radiation in X-ray and radiotherapy units
- Psychological: eg. Stress due to under staffing, night shifts
- Ergonomic: eg. Back ache, neck ache or eye strain due to poorly designed seats, computer workstations
- Accidents/falls due to lack of patient safety arrangements







## BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

These hazards refer to organisms or organic material produced by organisms that are harmful to human health. These include parasites, viruses, bacteria, fungi, and protein.

### Major biological hazards are :

- Blood-borne infections : eg. HBV, HCV, HIV
- Respiratory infections : eg. Influenza A
- Others : eg. Viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs) such as Ebola virus disease (EVD)

### *The infections can be transmitted by:*

- Percutaneous and mucocutaneous route
- Contact with body fluids or contaminated objects
- Respiratory route

Safe work practices help in preventing exposure to hazards in the workplace.

### Blood-borne infections in healthcare settings

The challenges faced in preventing these infections are:

- Limited knowledge on transmission of infections in the workplace
- Common unsafe practices
- Lack of standardized procedures
- Inadequate supplies and use of PPE
- Lack of regulation and policy to protect HCWs from exposure

### Human factors effecting safety

Two factors with the greatest impact are fatigue and stress. It is important to recognize that low levels of stress are also counterproductive, as they can lead to boredom and failure to attend to a task with appropriate vigilance.

### Training and education of HCWs

Training and education should be provided to all HCWs in IPC including supervisory, managerial staff and contractual housekeeping staff. They should be taught IPC principles, policies and procedures relevant to their work. The aim is to inform and educate HCWs about the infectious hazards they will face during their employment and their role in minimizing the spread to others. Special attention should be given to hand hygiene. The training should be participatory, and based on skills and competency of HCWs.

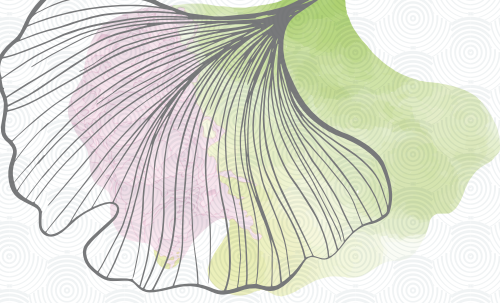
### Components of education and training

#### *Training and education should include:*

- \* Information on modes of transmission of infectious diseases, level of occupational risk (to reduce fear of contact with infected patients) prevention and control.
- \* Safe work practices
- \* Handling of PPE and clothing
- \* Reporting of exposure incident
- \* Techniques of stress management
- \* Regulations and policies







### **Safe work practice**

Some key features of safe work practice are:

- Standard precautions
- Transmission-based precautions
- Hand hygiene
- PPE
- Safe injection practice in the event of an epidemic, special isolation precautions and PPE are required.

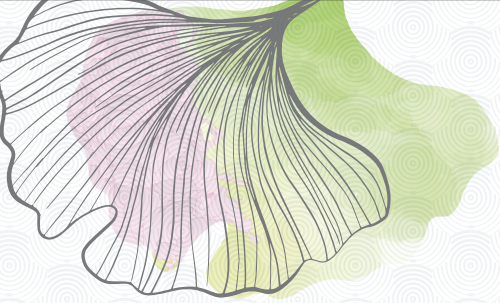
### **OCCUPATIONAL VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

- A vaccination policy (also for contractual staff)
- Maintenance of vaccination records
- Providing information about vaccine-preventable diseases and offering vaccination for the same modification of duties if an HCW has an infection that has a risk of transmission during exposure-prone procedures.
- Explaining the consequences of vaccine refusal

### **STAFF RECORDS**

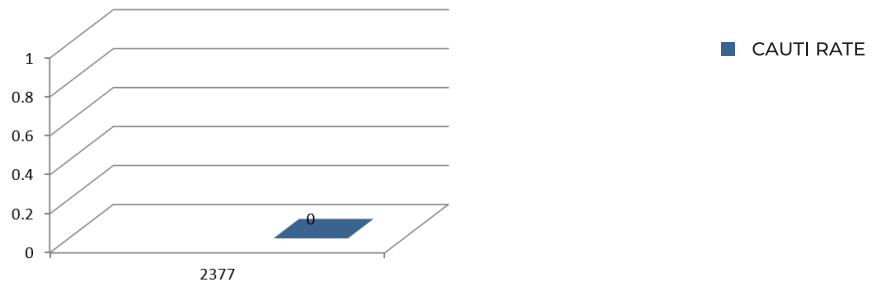
Healthcare management should maintain records of screening results and immunizations provided, including history of vaccine-preventable disease, date and results of serology, record of vaccine refusal. Date of giving the vaccine and batch number, type and brand name of vaccine. Records need to be secure and maintained in accordance with confidentiality.



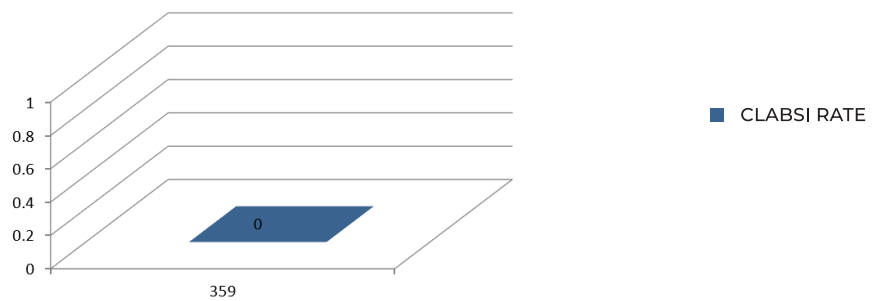


## HAI DATA - JULY, 2024

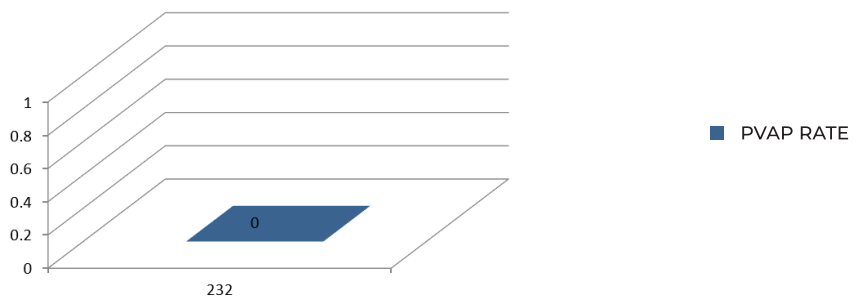
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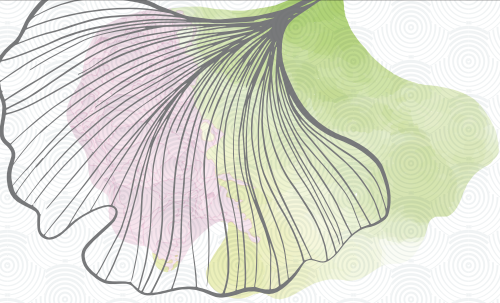
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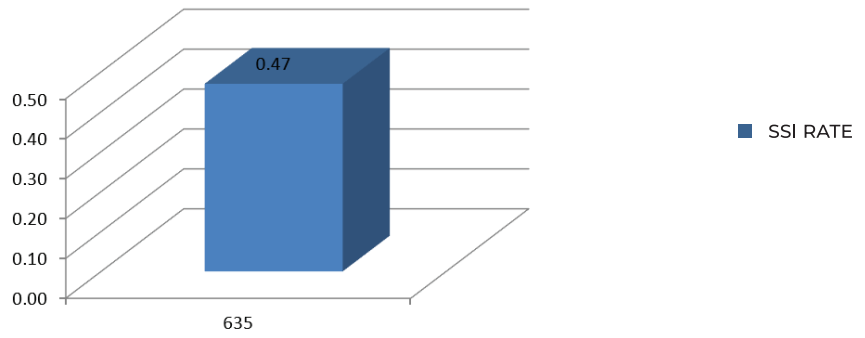
### PVAP RATE







### SSI RATE



### PERCENTAGE OF HAND HYGIENE COMPLIANCE

