



**Environment of Care**

Loie Couch, RN, BS, CIC, FAPIC  
April 5, 2019

Excellence University Infection Prevention Conference

**FU**  
**MT**  
Excellence University  
Infection Prevention

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Objectives**

- Define what the environment of care is
- Explain rules and regulations surrounding environment of care
- Execute appropriate environment of care observations
- Organize observation results for availability of surveyors

Excellence University Infection Prevention Conference

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Disclosure**

- My life is too boring to have anything to disclose



Excellence University Infection Prevention Conference

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## What is the Environment of Care?

- The building or space
  - How it is arranged
  - Special features to protect patients, visitors and staff
- Equipment
  - To support patient care
  - Safely operate building space
- People
  - HCW, patients and anyone else that enters the environment

Excellentia University Infection Prevention Conference

4

## Health Care vs. Business Occupancy

- Health Care Occupancy (NFPA 101)
  - Used for purposes of medical or other treatment
  - Four or more persons
  - Incapable of self-preservation (in event of fire, unable to leave building on their own)
    - Age
    - Physical or mental disability
    - Security measures not under their control

Excellenia University Infection Prevention Conference

5

## Health Care Occupancy

- NFPA 101 – section 3.3.134.1
- Provides services to four or more patients simultaneously that renders the patient incapable of taking self-preservation actions under emergency conditions without the assistance of others
- Provides, on outpatient basis, anesthesia that renders the patient incapable of taking action for self-preservation ...without the assistance of others

Excellentia University Infection Prevention Conference

6

## Business Occupancy

- NFPA 101, 3.3.134.3
- "Used for account and record keeping or the transaction of business other than mercantile"
- No one stays overnight
- Three or fewer patients rendered incapable of self-preservation

Excellenia University Infection Prevention Conference

7

## Business Occupancy

- Free standing business occupancy does not need to comply with Life Safety standards
  - Not physically attached to health care, OR
  - Separated by two hour fire rated assembly
  - No required exit from health care in to business occupancy
    - There can be a door in between, must be labeled "not an exit" on health care side
- **MUST** maintain free and unobstructed access to any and all exits to make sure they are not blocked

Excellenia University Infection Prevention Conference

8

## Health Care Occupancy

- Safety management
- Security
- Hazardous materials
- Fire/Life safety
- Medical equipment
- Utility management

Excellentia University Infection Prevention Conference

9

## Management Plan

- Risk assessment
- Staff development
- Emergency response and procedures
- Inspection, testing, and maintenance
- Information collection and evaluation
- Performance monitoring
- Annual evaluation

Excellenia University Infection Prevention Conference

10

## Safety

- Evacuation location is up to date and posted – known by staff
- Emergency phone number – known by staff
- Chemicals properly labeled
- SDS location known and spill kits available
- Flammable liquids, chemicals and medications properly stored
- Sharps containers no more than 2/3 full

Excellentia University Infection Prevention Conference

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

11

## Safety

- Biohazard waste storage room locked
- Eyewash station tested and documented weekly
- Soiled linen and trash receptacles larger than 32 gallons located in protected/hazardous room
- All storage 18" below sprinkler heads
- Doors not propped open
- Exit signs unobstructed and illuminated

Excellentia University Infection Prevention Conference

12

## Safety

- Nothing stored in stairwell
- Alarm pull stations visible and accessible
- RACE and PASS
- No corridor clutter
- No supplies on floor
- Electrical panels locked and not blocked

Excellentia University Infection Prevention Conference

13

## Safety

- No extension cords
- Staff knowledge
  - Gas shut off valve location
  - Emergency procedure to follow
  - When would you shut off the gas
  - How do you shut off the gas

Excellenia University Infection Prevention Conference

14

## Life Safety and Utility

- Fire/smoke separations are intact. Fire doors latch
- Fire wall penetrations and fire caulking intact
- Ceiling tiles and walls are secure and without stains and cracks
- All medical grade equipment has hospital grade plugs

Excellentia University Infection Prevention Conference

15

## Life Safety and Utility

- O2 cylinders in appropriate holders, not lying/standing on floor. Differentiate between full and empty
- Medical gas shut off valves with distribution labels
- Mobile equipment on one side of hallway, only if in use, can't be stored for > 30 minutes

Excellenia University Infection Prevention Conference

16

## Hazardous Materials

- Needles and other sharps discarded only in designated containers, containers are properly disposed of
- Hazardous substances properly labeled, handled and stored
- Red bags used for medical waste
- Soiled utility room is clean and orderly

17

## Environmental Services

- Entrance to area/division clean and presentable
- Disinfecting wipe container lids closed and labeled correctly
- Chemical dispensing unit properly working
- Eye wash sheets properly dated
- Eye wash station unobstructed
- Hopper rooms clean and in order

Excellentia University Infection Prevention Conference

18

## Environmental Services

- Staff can speak to disinfectant dwell time
- Staff has knowledge of SDS (what, where)
- EVS staff can speak to RACE and PASS
- EVS staff can locate fire pull stations
- EVS carts clean and free of unnecessary items

Excellenia University Infection Prevention Conference

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

19

## Other Environment of Care

- Clinical equipment is appropriately tagged with clinical engineering inventory
- Clinical equipment tagged with CE safety check
- Eye protection accessible at point of care
- Hand sanitizer dispensers not empty
- Fire extinguishers unobstructed, in place with current inspection
- PPE available

20

Other

- Staff can speak to where infection prevention policies are
- Nothing stored under sinks
- Hospital approved disinfectant wipes in immediate patient care area
- Staff covered drinks only in OSHA safe zones
- Refrigerators properly labeled (patient food, biohazard etc)
- Refrigerators clean and temperatures maintained

Excellenia University Infection Prevention Conference

21

**Other**

---

- No unapproved products (lotion)
- Patient care equipment visibly clean
- Clean supply room shelves have solid bottom or plastic barriers on bottom shelf
- No external corrugated shipping containers used for storage
- No soiled linen bags or trash bags on floor

Excellence University Infection Prevention Conference

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

22

**...And More**

---

- Hazardous waste/biohazard containers are impermeable, covered and not overflowing
- Medication room clean and organized
- Medication room closed and restricted
- Back-up generator testing
- Fire drills

Excellence University Infection Prevention Conference

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

23

**And One More Thing**

---

- Construction
  - ICRA
  - IP precautions
  - Contractor education
- Renovation
  - Upgrades
  - New technology
- Repairs
  - Emergent
  - Planned

Excellence University Infection Prevention Conference

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

24

## Environment of Care

- Environment
  - Building
  - Equipment
  - People
- Healthcare vs. Business occupancy
- Documentation of rounds
- Documentation of corrective actions

Excellentia University Infection Prevention Conference

25

## Questions?

Thank you!

Loie Couch, RN, BS, CIC, FAPIC

loie.couch@bjc.org



Excellenia University Infection Prevention Conference

26