

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Review of Policies and Procedures

Date Originated: July 25, 1990

Date Approved: May 24, 2000

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Dates Reviewed: 7.25.90, 10.28.92, 12.14.94,

1.22.97, 5.24.00, 5.24.03, 9.1.09, 9.21.10,

6.2.15, 6.7.16, 6.6.17

Approved by:

Chairperson, Infection Control Committee

Infection Control Nurse

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to ensure that appropriate Infection Control practices are followed to protect employees, patients, visitors and students from acquisition of infection in ECU clinical facilities and that ECU complies with state and federal regulations governing these activities, the review of any additional ECU Infection Control Policies, the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan, the Tuberculosis Exposure Control Plan and other policies as needed.

Scope: The ECU Infection Control Committee is responsible for providing input and review of infection control policy, practices and concerns at East Carolina University. Clinical facilities at ECU are subject to the specific Infection Control requirements promulgated by NC administrative code and by federal regulations. Current CDC Guidelines are used as a national standard of care to guide practice when regulations are absent. The Infection Control Nurse is responsible for ensuring that ECU clinical facilities comply with these regulations by periodic education, inspection and consultation services to clinical areas and by initiating or updating policy and practices.

A. Procedure: Committee Policies

1. The Infection Control Nurse will develop committee policies, seeking input from related departments for development of these policies and submitting them to the ECU Infection Control Committee.
2. After these policies are developed and/or reviewed, the revised and newly developed policies are submitted to the ECU Infection Control Committee to review and approve.
3. The Bloodborne Exposure Control plan, the Tuberculosis Exposure Control Plan and all other policies which relate to sanitation in healthcare facilities, disinfection, sterilization, isolation and infection control will be reviewed by the ECU Infection Control Committee.

B. Procedure: Departmental Policies

1. Departmental infection control policies will be developed by a departmental representative (Head Nurse/Clinical Coordinator) in consultation with the ECU Infection Control Nurse and presented for review and approval by the ECU Infection Control Committee. A policy template will be accessible to guide development.
2. Six (6) weeks prior to the Infection Control Committee Meeting, the current policy and a reminder notice about updating the policy will be sent to the departmental representative. The departmental representative will review the policy for any necessary changes. The updated policy will then be submitted to the ECU Infection Control Committee to review and approve. Departmental representatives may be invited to attend the committee meeting to answer any questions at that time.

3. NC Administrative Code, (10A NCAC 41A .0206), requires that one person under each roof in any healthcare facility attend a required one-day course in Infection Control. ECU Physicians and ECU Student Health has recommended that one representative in each clinic be trained by another trained representative and provide oversight and feedback on clinical practices within the clinic.

C. Procedure: Update of Approval polices.

1. After the ECU Infection Control Committee has reviewed and approved a policy, the policy will be sent to the appropriate personnel for signatures.
2. After signatures, the approved policy will be printed and sent to the appropriate department/clinic.
3. It will then be the responsibility of the department/clinic receiving this policy to replace the former policy with the updated version.
4. The individual department or clinic manager will ensure that their personnel are made aware of any updates or changes in the updated version.
5. Approved policies will be published in the on the ECU Infection Control Website.

D. Procedure: Departmental Responsibilities.

1. Department personnel will work with the Infection Control nurse to develop Departmental policies that will be submitted to the ECU Infection Control Committee for initial approval and for review every 3 years.
2. Department managers will replace current polices with updated versions.
3. Department managers will ensure that personnel are aware of any updates in policies.
4. Department personnel will notify the ECU Infection Control nurse of any potential changes in their practices or procedures. This will ensure that ECU clinical facilities remain in compliance with ECU policies and with state and federal regulations.