

Infection Control Professional (ICPs) with Multi-disciplinary Backgrounds in Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Programs

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Background

All Infection Prevention and Control Professionals (ICPs) must meet IPAC Canada Standards for IPAC Programs¹ and individual Core Competencies² including possessing critical knowledge about infectious diseases and how to implement precautions, conduct surveillance, educate the public and staff, and apply available research effectively.¹⁻⁶ ICPs in Canada come from a variety of regulated and unregulated health-related professional backgrounds, including but not limited to nursing, medical laboratory technology, epidemiology, public health, respiratory therapy, dental health, medicine, and others.³ The various disciplines and educational backgrounds of ICPs help to bring specific strengths to their teams and the organization. Each also brings a more detailed perspective to enhance the program.^{7,8} This diversity of experience, coupled with specialization in IPAC qualifies them for equal consideration of opportunities.^{9,10}

Position Statement:

IPAC Canada recognizes the various backgrounds of Infection Prevention and Control Professionals in health care and other settings and supports equitable access to opportunities in IPAC teams.

Stakeholders:

Governments, healthcare organizations, IPAC education courses/colleges, and employers (see Dissemination document)

Participants in Development of Position Statement:

This position statement was developed by IPAC Standards and Guidelines Committee

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Glossary/Definitions:

As per the Canadian Standard Association (CSA):

- “SHALL” is used to express a requirement, i.e., a provision that the user is obliged to satisfy in order to comply with the standard;
- “SHOULD” is used to express a recommendation or that which is advised but not required; and
- “MAY” is used to express an option or that which is permissible within the limits of the standard, an advisory or optional statement.

Infection Prevention and Control Professional (ICP): an individual who is employed with the primary responsibility for development, implementation, evaluation, and education related to policies, procedures, and practices that impact the prevention of infections. Integral competencies to the role include knowledge of infectious disease processes, microbiology, routine practices and additional precautions, surveillance, principles of epidemiology, research utilization and education. The performance of these activities and application of competencies will vary depending on the setting in which the ICP functions. Additional supporting competencies include communication, leadership, and professionalism. An ICP who demonstrates infection prevention and control competencies should be Certified in Infection Control (CIC®), having successfully passed the initial certification exam and recertification every 5 years.¹¹

Multi-disciplinary: Combining or involving several academic disciplines or professional specializations in an approach to a topic or problem (Source: Oxford Languages: <https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>)

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