

# Strengthening IPC for Effective Epidemic Preparedness

Gombe State IPC Policy Review Meeting

**Topic:** Setting up Infection Prevention & Control Program in the hospital

**Presenter:** Prof. Galadima Gadzama, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital



*Atlantic Fellows*



# OUTLINE

- Healthcare Associated Infections
- Impact of Healthcare associated infections
- Goals of infection control & hospital epidemiology
- Functions and organization of the infection control program
  - Infection control team
  - Infection control committee
- How to achieve infection control in the hospital



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Healthcare Associated Infection

**Healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs)**, also known as nosocomial infections, are infections that patients get while receiving treatment for medical or surgical conditions.

Adherence to infection prevention and control practices is essential to providing safe and high-quality patient care across all settings where healthcare is delivered.



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Impact of Healthcare Associated infections

- Increased morbidity (serious consequences and permanent disability )
- The length of hospital stay is prolonged, **on average by 5–10 days.**
- The risk of death approximately doubles in patients who acquire hospital infection.
- Hospital-acquired infections are very expensive and contribute significantly to the escalating costs of health care. It has been argued that, even if **moderately effective**, a hospital infection control program is one of the most cost-effective and cost-beneficial preventative medical interventions currently available.

# Goals of infection control & hospital epidemiology

1. Protect the patients

2. Protect the health care workers, visitors, and others in the healthcare environment.

3. Accomplish the previous two goals in a cost effective and cost efficient manner, whenever possible.



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Functions and organization of the infection control program

- The provision of an **effective infection control program (ICP)** is a key to the quality and a reflection of the overall standard of care provided by the health care institution.
- Major differences among countries in their health care resources and organization, and medical cultures explain the diversity of approaches to the organization of hospital hygiene and infection control programs.
- The growth in ICP has been paralleled by the establishment and growth of a number of professional and governmental organizations which focus on prevention and control. **(APIC, SHEA, CDC, HICPAC).**



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Implementing the infection control program

In the majority of countries ICP, typically operates on two levels:

- ✓ **An executive body – the infection control team (ICT) – and**
- ✓ **An advisory body to the hospital management – the infection control committee (ICC) – which adopts the ‘legislative’ role of policy making.**



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Infection control committee (ICC)

- The hospital ICC is charged with the responsibility for the **planning, evaluation** of evidenced-based practice and **implementation, prioritization** and **resource allocation** of all matters relating to infection control.
- The ICC must have a reporting relationship directly to either administration or the medical staff to promote ICP visibility and effectiveness. **The ICC should meet regularly (monthly)** according to local need





# Membership of the ICC

The membership of the hospital ICC should reflect the spectrum of clinical services and administrative arrangements of the health care facility. As a minimum, the committee should include:

1. Chief executive, or hospital administrator or his/her nominated representative.
2. Infection control doctor or hospital microbiologist (chairperson).
3. Infection Control Nurse (ICN).
4. Infectious Diseases Physician (if available)
5. Director of nursing or his representative.
6. Occupational Health Physician (if available).
7. Representative from the major clinical specialities.
8. Additionally representatives of any other department (pharmacy, central supply, maintenance, housekeeping...etc) may be invited as necessary



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Functions of the ICC

- **To review the annual plan for infection control**
- **To review the infection control policies.**
- **To support the IC team and direct resources to address problems as identified**
- **To ensure availability of appropriate supplies**
- **To review epidemiological surveillance data and identify area for intervention.**



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Cont...

- **To assess and promote improved practice at all levels of the health care facility**
- **To ensure appropriate training in infection control and safety.**
- **To review risks associated with new technology and new devices prior to their approval for use.**
- **To review and provide input into an outbreak investigation**
- **To communicate and cooperate with other committees with common interests such as antibiotic committee, occupational health committee....etc.**



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Infection Control Team (ICT)

- It comprises the **infection control doctor (ICD)** and **infection control nurse (ICN)**.
- The ICT is responsible for the **day-to-day** running of ICPs. It is important that all hospitals should have an ICT.
- The optimal structure of ICT will vary with needs and resources of the facility.
- The ICT must have the authority to manage an effective ICP. In large hospitals, this usually means a direct reporting relationship with senior administration



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Role of the Infection Control Team

- To develop an annual infection control plan with clearly defined objective.
- To develop written policies and procedures including regular evaluation and update.
- To supervise and monitor daily practices of patient care designed to prevent infection.
- To ensure availability of appropriate supplies
- To organize an epidemiological surveillance program (particularly in high risk areas for early detection of outbreak).
- To educate all grades of staff in infection control policy, practice and procedures



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Cont.

- **To develop and implement annual training plan for all health care workers.**
- **To have scientific and technical support role in purchasing and monitoring of equipment and supplies.**
- **To participate with the pharmacy and antibiotic committee in developing a program for supervising the use of antibiotics.**
- **To participate in the audit activity.**
- **To submit monthly reports on activities to ICC.**

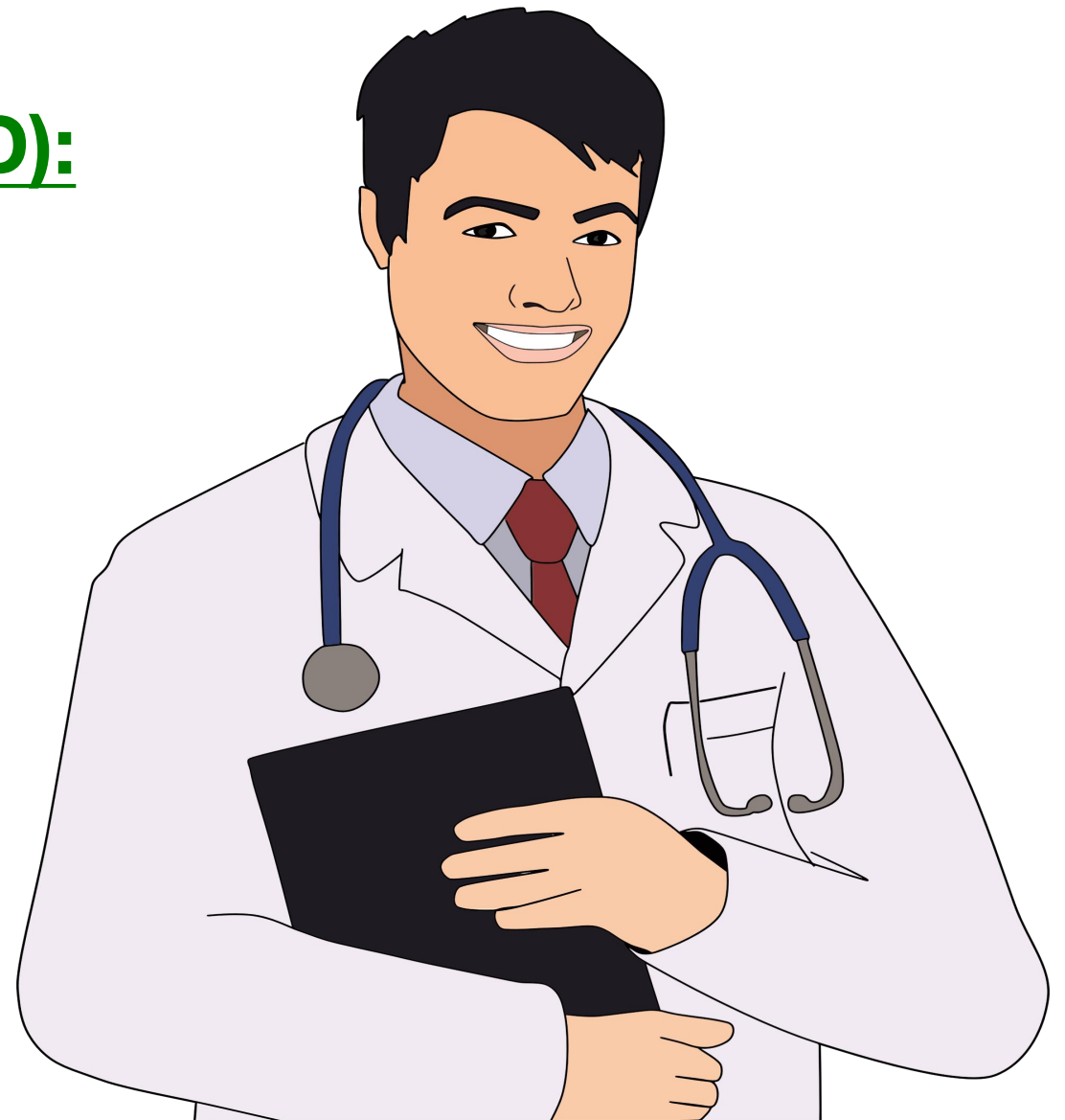


*Atlantic Fellows*



# Infection Control Doctor (ICD):

- The infection control physician should be a **medically qualified senior** staff of the facility who is interested in and who spends the majority of his time involved in hospital infection control.
- He could be a **medical microbiologist**, an **epidemiologist** or **infectious disease physician**
- Irrespective of his professional background, the ICD should have the **interest, knowledge and experience** in different aspects of infection control.



*Atlantic Fellows*



## The role and responsibilities of the ICD:

- Serves as a specialist advisor and takes a leading role in effective functioning of the ICT.
- An active member of ICC may be the **chairman**.
- Assist the ICC in drawing the annual plan, policies and long-term program for prevention & control of hospital infection.
- Advises the hospital administrator directly on all aspects of infection control
- Participates in the preparation of tender documents for support services
- Must be involved in setting quality standards, surveillance and audit with regard to hospital infection.



*Atlantic Fellows*





# Infection Control Nurse (ICN)

- An ICN or practitioner is a registered nurse with an additional academic education and practical training which enables her to act as a specialist advisor in all aspects relating to infection control.
- The ICN is usually the **only full-time practitioner** in the ICT and therefore takes the key role in day-to-day infection control activities with the ICD providing the leading role



Atlantic Fellows



# The role of Infection Control Nurse

The role and responsibilities of the ICN are summarized as follows:

- ❑ Has an ongoing contribution to the development and implementation of IC policies and procedures, participate in auditing and monitoring tools related to IC and infectious diseases.
- ❑ Provide specialist nursing input in the identification, prevention, monitoring and control of infections within the hospital
- ❑ Participate in surveillance and outbreak investigation



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Cont.

- ❑ Identify, investigate and monitor infections, hazardous practice and procedures
- ❑ Participate in the preparation of documents relating to service specifications and quality standards.
- ❑ Participate in training and educational programs and in membership of relevant committees where infection control input is needed
- ❑ One ICN is required for every 250 bed capacity



*Atlantic Fellows*



# The Infection Control Link Nurse (ICLN)

The link system helps to develop IC Operational support between ICN and the wards to identify problems, implement solutions & maintain communications

- Maintain hygiene on the ward
- Monitor aseptic technique, hand hygiene and isolation
- Report to the physician any evidence of infection
- Initiate isolation of suspected patients
- Identify signs of communicable diseases
- Limit patient exposure to infections
- Maintain a safe and adequate supply of IPC supplies



# How to achieve success in infection control

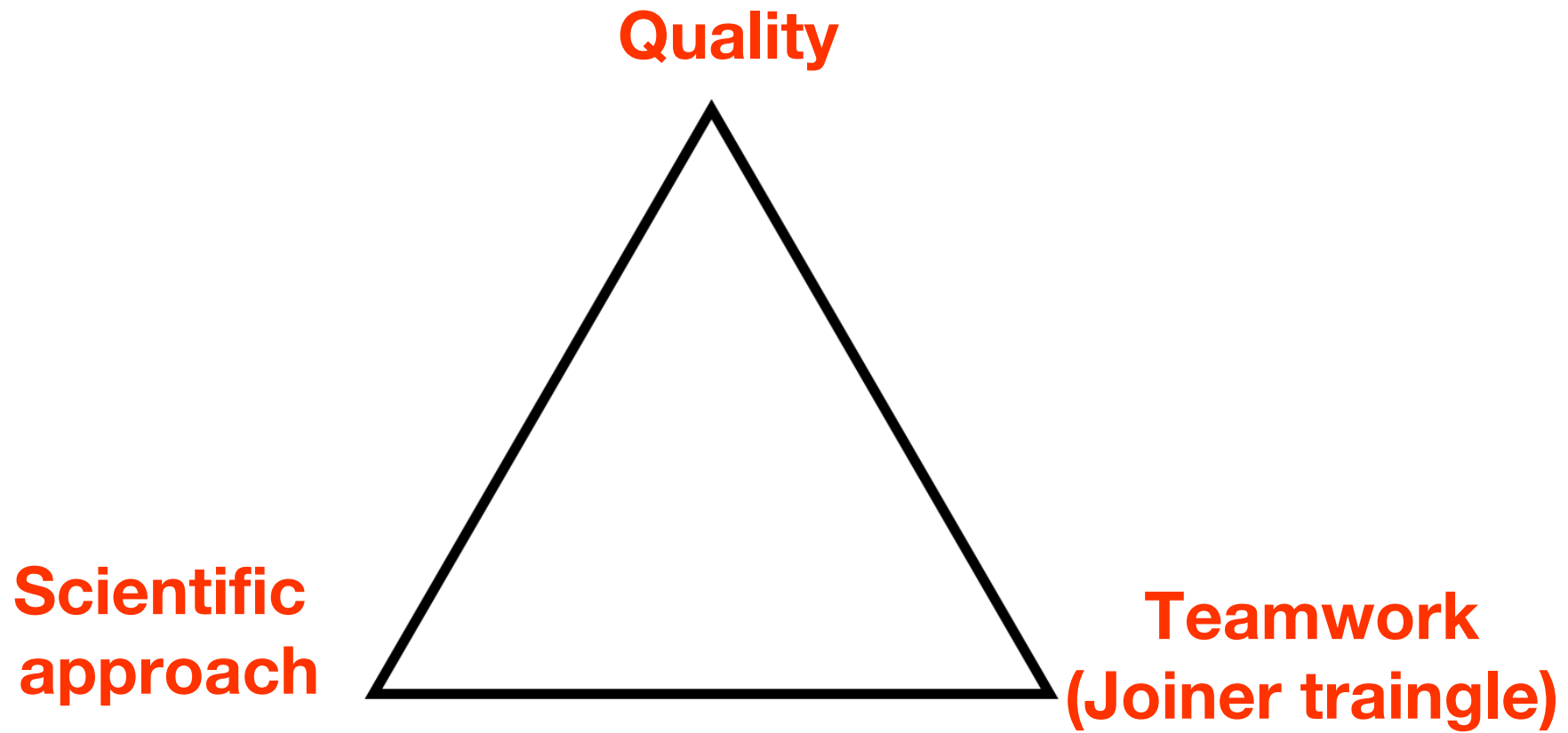
**Infection control is a quality management function:**

- **Quality is defined by its attributes: effectiveness, efficiency, optimality, acceptability, legitimacy, and equity. Quality is also the relationship of structure, process and outcome.**
- **Quality is “hassle elimination”**
- **Quality is the result of **planning, monitoring** (through measurement) and **improvement** (through team effort).**



*Atlantic Fellows*





**Improvements in quality are achieved by understanding processes, and variations and are supported by teamwork and scientific approach**



*Atlantic Fellows*



# Thank You!

[www.rhemn.org.ng](http://www.rhemn.org.ng)



*Atlantic Fellows*

