



**Infection prevention and control in primary care:**  
a toolkit of resources



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Benedetta Allegranzi (Department of Integrated Health Services) provided strategic directions for the development of the document and contributed to its writing. Anthony Twyman (infection prevention and control consultant, Canada) coordinated and led the development of the document. Julie Storr (infection prevention and control consultant, United Kingdom) supported the development of the document and contributed to its writing.

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## Introduction

The recently published World Health Organization (WHO) [Strengthening infection prevention and control in primary care](#)<sup>1</sup> document collates existing standards, measurement and implementation approaches, and resources for infection prevention and control (IPC) in primary care. During its development, it became apparent that a number of already existing tools and resources have the potential to support facility-level implementation of IPC in primary care.

This toolkit brings together in one place a number of these tools and resources from WHO and other organizations, with a focus on those most relevant to primary care. These tools and resources have been compiled to support facility-level implementation in line with the recommended WHO IPC Hub and Task Force multimodal approach<sup>2</sup>.

### 1

## IPC in primary care toolkit: an overview

### What is the IPC toolkit?

The toolkit presents a list of tools and resources in tabular form. The types of tools and resources included fall into five categories: guidance materials, implementation manuals and resources, communications and advocacy tools, measurement tools and training and education resources. A synthesis of some key information on each tool/resource is provided to support the reader in decision making on the usefulness of each one for the purpose required. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the tools and resources available to support the strengthening of IPC in primary care, but rather a collection of the most relevant material. The toolkit will be updated and complemented over time as more tools and resources are identified and shared for facility-level use.

Included tools and resources were carefully examined and selected to meet the need for strengthening IPC in primary care and users are encouraged to select and use all those as appropriate for their setting. Of note, although a major emphasis was placed on tools and resources that could be readily used without modification, some may require minor or major adaptation for optimal use. While all the tools and resources referenced here have been carefully appraised for their utility, their inclusion does not imply endorsement or rigorous testing by WHO.

This toolkit does not include COVID-19 materials as the emphasis is on normative IPC implementation. To access WHO guidance and other resources related to COVID-19 please visit the [WHO website](#).

<sup>1</sup> Strengthening infection prevention and control in primary care: a collection of existing standards, measurement and implementation resources. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021 (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240035249>, accessed 5 October 2021)

<sup>2</sup> Multimodal strategies comprise multiple measures to support the implementation of IPC improvement interventions and commonly focus on: 1) system change; 2) training and education; 3) monitoring and feedback; 4) communications/reminders in the workplace; and 5) safety climate/culture change.

## Development of the IPC toolkit

The WHO IPC Technical and Clinical Hub carried out a scoping exercise for relevant IPC tools and resources that addressed IPC in primary care directly or indirectly, with a focus on those developed in the last 10 years and freely available. Development of the toolkit involved a wide reaching consultation with technical experts in the field of infection prevention and control and primary care using existing WHO networks, IPC Taskforce and other relevant departments and units across WHO.

## Who is the toolkit for?

The primary target audience for the toolkit is the IPC focal person or team with responsibility for driving the development and practical implementation of IPC in primary care. This can also include other stakeholders or organizations who are supporting IPC in primary care.

## How to use the toolkit

The toolkit has been structured in such a way that a user can easily identify:

- the tool/resource name and year of issue
- organization
- brief description
- type of tool/resource
- thematic area
- languages available
- modifications (if any) required.

To access the tools and resources within the toolkit, hyperlinks have been provided. In most cases, these links will take the user directly to the tools and resources for download. However, where multiple tools and resources have been grouped together or multiple languages are available, users will be directed to the main landing page.

## Feedback

To support future updates of the toolkit, users are invited to share their feedback on the usefulness and ease of navigation. In addition if there are tools that might be considered for inclusion, please contact [savelives@who.int](mailto:savelives@who.int).

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