

Highlighting the Crucial Role of Education and Training in Infection Prevention and Control Programs

Enfeksiyon Önleme ve Kontrol Programlarında Eğitim ve Öğretimin Kritik Rolünün Vurgulanması

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Dear Editor,

We have read with great interest the article titled "Infection Prevention and Control Program in Healthcare Facilities: Minimum Requirements" by Kalın Ünüvar et al.^[1] The authors present a thorough assessment of the essential criteria for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). While the article emphasizes several important requirements, we hold the belief that considerably more attention should be paid to the role that education and training play in infection prevention and control (IPC).

Education is inherently an important component of successful IPC programs, and it assures that the most recent evidence-based practices are available to healthcare professionals. In fact, the relevant line of studies demonstrate that structured and continuous IPC training reduces HAIs by improving adherence to infection control measures. However, despite its significance, IPC training has often confronted strains such as resource limitation, time limitation, and variations in compliance between different healthcare institutions.^[2]

To overcome these obstacles, we propose the integration of multimodal educational strategies, including:

Essential and Regular Training: IPC education should be provided as part of both pre-undergraduate and graduate in-service training programs, with regular modifications to keep up with altering guidelines.

Using Simulation and Online Resources: Accessibility and participation can be improved through digital platforms and practical simulation training, especially in settings with relatively limited resources.^[3]

Institutional Dedication: Hospital administrators may be encouraged to spend adequate time and money on IPC education, ensuring that all healthcare personnel, including non-clinical staff, complete sufficient education.^[4]

Integrating IPC Education in Children and Adolescents: Improving interventions to combat infectious diseases in the population is indeed critical for monitoring trends and implementing effective prevention and control measures. Promoting infectious disease health education among children and adolescents is critical for effectively controlling outbreaks and avoiding occurrence in the community. Introducing IPC principles at the primary and secondary school education levels can build a foundation for infection

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prevention awareness, leading to long-term improvements in public health outcomes. Early education on hand hygiene, transmission of infections, and responsible antibiotic use can enhance future healthcare practices and reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance.^[5,6]

To increase patient safety and the standard of healthcare, investing in education is not only advised; it actually is required. We urge IPC committees, hospital administrators, and legislators to give structured educational interventions top priority as an essential part of IPC initiatives.

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