



## **Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC)**

The healthcare system has reached a critical juncture between patient safety, infection prevention, and quality of care. Significant changes in where care is and will be delivered are central issues. These changes represent an unprecedented opportunity for infection preventionists (IPs) to accelerate progress toward the elimination of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). APIC leaders believe this is the right time to commit to an uncompromising vision and organize the association's mission and goals around a plan to advance toward *healthcare without infection*. We propose to advance our mission to *create a safer world through prevention of infection* and embrace this bold direction through *patient safety, implementation science, competencies and certification, advocacy, and data standardization*.

**Vision: Healthcare without infection**

**Mission: Create a safer world through prevention of infection**

## **APIC Strategic Plan 2020**

### **How APIC chose this vision and course of action**

Strategic conversations with APIC members, the board, and key leader focus groups at the APIC 2011 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, resulted in the following change drivers being identified that together create a tipping point for infection prevention. APIC commissioned *Signature i, LLC*, to guide its leaders through a systematic scan of the change drivers that are shaping the future for infection prevention.

- The future of healthcare focused on prevention and cost control
- The integration of evidence and outcomes-based research
- Anticipating and influencing regulatory change
- The empowered consumers demand for transparency, safety, and accountability
- An automated future for data collection and risk assessment
- A global interconnected world encourages collaboration

APIC recognizes that these challenges will require the IP to become a new kind of leader – a collaborative leader who can engage people and groups to work toward common goals that eclipse their traditional roles, disciplines, and past experiences. In the spirit of collaborative leadership, the APIC board invited the association’s strategic partners and key opinion leaders to join together in exploring new directions for the profession. They met together September 19-20, 2011 in Alexandria, Virginia, to discuss the opportunities and desired outcomes for 2020. On September 21, 2011, the APIC board analyzed this guidance and considered the association’s strengths resulting in unanimous agreement to adopt this bold vision and to set a course through strategic goals to drive the association’s efforts over the next eight years (2012 through 2019).

APIC leaders and staff will work with members across the organization and will collaborate with others to achieve these strategic goals. You are invited to join us in every step of this journey toward health care without infection.

## Strategic goals to achieve by 2020

### ***Patient safety goal***

Demonstrate and support effective infection prevention and control as a key component of patient safety.

### **Objectives and initiatives**

1. Collaborate and align with key infection prevention and public health organizations, agencies and, consumer groups, including international engagement, to demonstrate and promote effective infection prevention programs across the care continuum.
2. Define key processes of care that are shown to prevent infection.
3. Develop framework to optimize partnership between providers and IPs as part of infection prevention programs.
4. Create tools that integrate elements of the science of safety into infection prevention programs.
5. Identify and assess measures that demonstrate the impact of infection prevention as part of patient safety.

### ***Implementation science goal***

Promote and facilitate the development and implementation of scientific research to prevent infection.

#### **Objectives and initiatives**

1. Define implementation science (IS) and demonstrate the value of implementing the science of prevention to members, partners, and stakeholders.
2. Identify gaps in the research agenda and address the gaps.
3. Collaborate with related disciplines and organizations in promoting implementation science research.

### ***IP competencies and certification goal***

Define, develop, strengthen, and sustain competencies of the IP across the career span and support board certification in infection prevention and control (CIC®) to obtain widespread adoption.

#### **Objectives and initiatives**

1. Develop and refine APIC IP competency model and program for the career span.
2. Develop white paper and associated resources to support optimal use of the competency model for IPs and other leaders at the point of patient care.
3. Promote the value of CIC® certification to key stakeholders, regulators, consumers, and accreditors.
4. Explore options for supporting and recognizing IPs who have achieved an advanced/expert level of knowledge and skills.

***Advocacy goal***

Influence and facilitate legislative, accreditation, and regulatory agenda for infection prevention with consumers, policy makers, health care leaders, and personnel across the care continuum.

**Objectives and initiatives**

1. Advance the development and adoption of scientifically valid, actionable, infection prevention measures and the necessary technology support that promotes appropriate data collection.
2. Support and advocate for resources that promote effective infection prevention and control efforts, programs, and initiatives.
3. Promote active IP participation and collaboration with organizational leadership of providers, consumer advocacy groups, and payers to enhance infection prevention and control on all levels and points of care.

***Data standardization goal***

Promote and advocate for standardized, quality and comparable HAI data.

**Objectives and initiatives**

1. Support and participate in the strategic planning for advancing the description, collection, and reporting of HAI data.
2. Collaborate with government and private sector partners in initiatives supporting standardized and validated data for state and national reporting.
3. Advocate for expansion and interoperability of the electronic medical record (EMR) and standardized extractable infection data elements for state and national reporting.

APIC Strategic Plan 2020 builds on the spirit of APIC's ongoing history of leading efforts to strive for zero HAIs. Background information on efforts to target zero HAIs can be found under the "About APIC" and "Vision and Mission" sections of the APIC website located at [www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org).

**More information about the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC):**

APIC is the leading professional association for infection preventionists (IPs) with more than 14,000 members.

Most APIC members are nurses, physicians, public health professionals, epidemiologists, or medical technologists who:

- Collect, analyze, and interpret health data in order to track infection trends, plan appropriate interventions, measure success, and report relevant data to public health agencies
- Establish scientifically based infection prevention practices and collaborate with the healthcare team to assure implementation
- Work to prevent HAIs in healthcare facilities by isolating sources of infections and limiting their transmission
- Educate healthcare personnel and the public about infectious diseases and how to limit their spread

Many IPs are employed within healthcare institutions and also serve as educators, researchers, consultants, and clinical scientists. The majority of APIC members are affiliated with acute care settings. An increasing number practice in ambulatory and outpatient services where they direct programs that protect patients and personnel from HAIs. Members are also involved in long-term care, home health, and other practice settings in which infection prevention and control is an increasing area of responsibility for nurses and other healthcare personnel.

APIC's educational programs, products, and services support the infection prevention activities of the many patient safety stakeholders. APIC collaborates with other professional associations, consumer groups, and thought leaders, as well as regulatory and accrediting bodies, to maximize the synergy of shared interests and resources with the goal of improving patient outcomes.



#### About the APIC Logo

The shield represents prevention [protection]

The green and blue arcs represent the globe

The overarching swoosh communicates our expanding reach around the world

The connecting link between the A and P represent the connectivity of our network

The tagline **“Spreading knowledge. Preventing infection.®”** succinctly expresses the role of an infection preventionist and APIC’s role as a premier organization representing the collective voice of more than 14,000 members.

*Disclaimer: APIC does not endorse any Strategic Partner company or its products and services. APIC Strategic Partners are required to adhere to the APIC Corporate Guidelines. APIC Strategic Plan 2020 was approved by the APIC Board of Directors on January 26, 2012.*