



OUTLINE OF US HEALTH AGENCIES

With Functions Related to Infection Prevention and Control

- I. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) -- Cabinet-Level**
Department which includes the following agencies:
 - A. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
 1. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
 2. Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases (CCID)
 - a. National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases (NCPDCID)
 - i. Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP)
 3. Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC)
 - B. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**
 - C. National Institutes of Health (NIH)**
 1. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
 2. National Library of Medicine (NLM)
 - D. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**
 - E. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**
 - F. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**
- II. Department of Labor (DOL) -- Cabinet-Level Department which includes:**
 - A. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**
- III. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Cabinet-Level agency**
- IV. Non-Governmental Agencies**
 - A. Joint Commission**
 - B. Institute of Medicine (IOM)**

Glossary of Acronyms

AHRQ:	<i>Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; part of HHS.</i>
CCID:	<i>Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases; part of CDC.</i>
CDC:	<i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; part of HHS.</i>
CMS:	<i>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; part of HHS.</i>
DHQP:	<i>Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion; part of NCPDCID under CDC.</i>
DOL:	<i>US Department of Labor; Cabinet-level agency charged with protection of the American workforce.</i>
EPA:	<i>US Environmental Protection Agency; Cabinet-level agency charged with protection of the environment.</i>
FDA:	<i>Food and Drug Administration; part of HHS.</i>
HHS:	<i>US Department of Health and Human Services; Cabinet-level primary health agency in the US.</i>
HICPAC:	<i>Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee; part of CDC.</i>
HRSA:	<i>Health Resources and Services Administration; part of HHS.</i>
IOM:	<i>Institute of Medicine; non-governmental agency.</i>
NCPDCID:	<i>National Center for preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious diseases; part of CCID under CDC.</i>
NIAID:	<i>National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; part of NIH.</i>
NIH:	<i>National Institutes of Health; part of HHS.</i>
NIOSH:	<i>National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; part of CDC.</i>
NLM:	<i>National Library of Medicine; part of NIH.</i>
OSHA:	<i>Occupational Safety and Health Administration; part of DOL.</i>

Sources:

US Department of Health and Human Services website (www.hhs.gov)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (www.cdc.gov)
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website (www.cms.hhs.gov)
National Institutes of Health website (www.nih.gov)
Food and Drug Administration website (www.fda.gov)
Health Resources and Services Administration website (www.hrsa.gov)
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality website (www.ahrq.gov)
Occupational Safety and Health Administration website (www.osha.gov)
US Environmental Protection Agency website (www.epa.gov)
The Joint Commission website (www.jointcommission.org)
Institute of Medicine website (www.iom.edu)

US GOVERNMENT HEALTH AGENCIES

US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (www.cdc.gov)

Based in Atlanta, Georgia, the CDC's mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability. CDC seeks to accomplish its mission by working with partners throughout the nation and the world to

- monitor health,
- detect and investigate health problems,
- conduct research to enhance prevention,
- develop and advocate sound public health policies,
- implement prevention strategies,
- promote healthy behaviors,
- foster safe and healthful environments,
- provide leadership and training.

Those functions are the backbone of CDC's mission. Each of CDC's component organizations undertakes these activities in conducting its specific programs. The steps needed to accomplish this mission are also based on scientific excellence, requiring well-trained public health practitioners and leaders dedicated to high standards of quality and ethical practice.

Within CDC are five Coordinating Centers, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and Office of the Director

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) ensures safety and health for all people in the workplace through research and prevention.

Of the Coordinating Centers, the one most closely related to APIC's work is the *Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases (CCID)*. Within CCID, the *National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases (NCPDCID)* protects populations domestically and internationally through leadership, partnerships, epidemiologic and laboratory studies, and the use of quality systems, standards, and practices. NCPDCID collaborates with the Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases (CCID), CDC, and the agency's national and global partners to conduct, coordinate, and support infectious disease surveillance, research, and prevention. Each of the center's six divisions complements this cross-cutting mission, working with internal and external partners to improve public health. APIC works most closely with the *Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP)*, to protect patients, protect healthcare personnel, and promote safety, quality, and value in the healthcare delivery system by providing national leadership for nine key areas.

- Healthcare outcomes,
- Outbreaks in healthcare settings,

- Emerging antimicrobial-resistant infections,
- Efficacy of new interventions for patient safety,
- Clinical microbiology laboratory quality,
- Water quality in healthcare settings,
- Cost effectiveness of prevention interventions,
- Promotion of implementation and evaluation of prevention interventions, and
- Development of infection control guidelines and policies.

DHQP is organized into three main components: the Epidemiology and Laboratory Branch, the Prevention and Evaluation Branch, and the Healthcare Outcomes Branch. *The Epidemiology and Laboratory Branch (ELB)* provides epidemiologic and laboratory assistance when investigating outbreaks of disease and other adverse events that occur in healthcare settings. ELB is a reference laboratory for U.S. hospitals and other healthcare facilities for the identification of staphylococci and their toxins, anaerobic bacteria, and enteric bacteria. ELB confirms and characterizes unusual antimicrobial resistance patterns and delineates the mechanism of resistance. ELB's environmental microbiology team is developing optimum methods to detect and decontaminate healthcare surfaces and water that may be contaminated with Category A and B bacterial agents in a bioterrorism event. The epidemiology section responds to outbreaks of new or emerging infectious diseases and other adverse outcomes associated with the delivery of healthcare. Examples of such responses include the first-ever description of rabies transmission associated with organ transplantation, investigation of nationwide outbreaks associated with contaminated medications and devices, investigation of a nationwide epidemic of *Clostridium difficile*-associated disease, and responding to the emergence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) outside healthcare facilities, including increasing rates of MRSA skin and soft tissue disease.

The Prevention and Evaluation Branch (PEB) develops and promotes the implementation of evidence-based guidelines, recommendations, and other interventions to prevent healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, related adverse events, and medical errors; evaluates the effectiveness of novel and proven interventions for prevention of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, related adverse events, and medical errors; and develops, disseminates, and evaluates training and other health communications tools designed to protect patients and healthcare personnel and to promote quality healthcare.

The Healthcare Outcomes Branch (HOB) conducts surveillance, research, and demonstration projects to measure the impact of healthcare-associated infections, adverse drug events, and other complications of healthcare. HOB staff work closely with healthcare practitioners and healthcare facilities and with partners in other federal agencies, accrediting bodies, and professional groups. A major initiative currently underway in HOB is the launch of the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), a web-based system for monitoring healthcare-associated adverse events. More than 300 U. S. hospitals are enrolled; many more are expected to participate when NHSN is fully operational.

Also under the jurisdiction of CDC is the ***Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC)***. HICPAC is a federal advisory committee made up of

14 external infection control experts who provide advice and guidance to CDC and the Secretary of HHS regarding the practice of health care infection control, strategies for surveillance and prevention and control of health care associated infections in United States health care facilities. One of the primary functions of the committee is to issue recommendations for preventing and controlling health care associated infections in the form of guidelines, resolutions and informal communications. Other functions and activities include information exchange with CDC staff and formal and informal interactions with other CDC advisory committees such as the National Center for Infectious Diseases Board of Scientific Counselors, the Advisory Counsel on Elimination of Tuberculosis and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

The committee has liaison representatives from professional organizations and other federal agencies - including the Association for Professionals of Infection Control and Epidemiology Inc., the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, the Association of Peri-Operative Registered Nurses, the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, the Food and Drug Administration; and such other non-voting liaison representatives as the Secretary deems necessary to effectively carry out the functions of the Committee.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (www.cms.hhs.gov)

CMS is the federal agency responsible for administering the Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance), HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments), and several other health-related programs.

Medicare is a federal government-funded health insurance program for:

- people age 65 or older,
- people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and
- people of all ages with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Medicaid is a state administered health care coverage program for certain low-income individuals and families. Each state sets its own guidelines regarding eligibility and services.

CMS develops Conditions of Participation (CoPs) and Conditions for Coverage (CfCs) that health care organizations must meet in order to begin and continue participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. These minimum health and safety standards are the foundation for improving quality and protecting the health and safety of beneficiaries. CMS also ensures that the standards of accrediting organizations recognized by CMS (through a process called "deeming") meet or exceed the Medicare standards set forth in the CoPs / CfCs.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) (www.nih.gov)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting medical research. Helping to lead the way toward important medical discoveries that improve

people's health and save lives, NIH scientists investigate ways to prevent disease as well as the causes, treatments, and even cures for common and rare diseases. Composed of 27 Institutes and Centers, the NIH provides leadership and financial support to researchers in every state and throughout the world.

One of the NIH institutes, *The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)* conducts and supports research to study the causes of allergic, immunologic, and infectious diseases, and to develop better means of preventing, diagnosing, and treating these illnesses. Its many major areas of investigation include HIV/AIDS, Biodefense, Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases, Vaccine Development, and Antimicrobial Resistance.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world's largest research library of the health sciences, serves scientists, health professionals, and the public. The Library has a statutory mandate from Congress to apply its resources broadly to the advancement of medical and health-related sciences. It collects, organizes, and makes available biomedical information to investigators, educators, practitioners, and the public and carries out programs designed to strengthen existing and develop new medical library services in the United States. It conducts research in health communications, supports medical informatics, and provides information services and sophisticated tools in the areas of molecular biology and toxicology/environmental health. The Library creates Web-based services for the general public containing information from the NIH and other reliable sources.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (www.fda.gov)

The FDA is responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation. The FDA is also responsible for advancing the public health by helping to speed innovations that make medicines and foods more effective, safer, and more affordable; and helping the public get the accurate, science-based information they need to use medicines and foods to improve their health.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) (www.hrsa.gov)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. Comprising six bureaus and 12 offices, HRSA provides leadership and financial support to health care providers in every state and U.S. territory. HRSA grantees provide health care to uninsured people, people living with HIV/AIDS, and pregnant women, mothers and children. They train health professionals and improve systems of care in rural communities. HRSA oversees organ, tissue and blood cell (bone marrow and cord blood) donation and vaccine injury compensation programs, and maintains

databases that protect against health care malpractice and health care waste, fraud and abuse.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) (www.ahrq.gov)

AHRQ is the lead Federal agency on quality research. AHRQ, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is charged with supporting research designed to improve the quality of health care, reduce its cost, and broaden access to essential services. AHRQ's broad programs of research bring practical, science-based information to medical practitioners and to consumers and other health care purchasers.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)
(www.osha.gov)

OSHA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor. Its role is to promote the safety and health of America's workforce, including healthcare workers, by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual process improvement in workplace safety and health.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) (www.epa.gov)

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment, working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people. EPA, an independent government agency, works to develop and enforce regulations that implement environmental laws enacted by Congress. EPA is responsible for researching and setting national standards for a variety of environmental programs, and delegates to states and tribes the responsibility for issuing permits and for monitoring and enforcing compliance. Where national standards are not met, EPA can issue sanctions and take other steps to assist the states and tribes in reaching the desired levels of environmental quality.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

THE JOINT COMMISSION (Formerly the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations [JCAHO]) (www.jointcommission.org)

The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's predominant standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Since 1951, it has maintained state-of-the-art standards that focus on improving the quality and safety of care provided by health care organizations. The Joint Commission's comprehensive process evaluates an organization's compliance with these standards and other accreditation or certification requirements. Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide

as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards. To earn and maintain The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™, an organization must undergo an on-site survey by a Joint Commission survey team at least every three years. (Laboratories must be surveyed every two years.)

The Joint Commission provides accreditation services for the following types of organizations:

- General, psychiatric, children's and rehabilitation hospitals
- Critical access hospitals
- Medical equipment services, hospice services and other home care organizations
- Nursing homes and other long term care facilities
- Behavioral health care organizations, addiction services
- Rehabilitation centers, group practices, office-based surgeries and other ambulatory care providers
- Independent or freestanding laboratories

The Joint Commission also awards Disease Specific Care Certification to health plans, disease management service companies, hospitals and other care delivery settings that provide disease management and chronic care services. It also has a Health Care Staffing Services Certification Program and is developing a certification program for transplant centers and health care services.

Joint Commission standards address the organization's level of performance in key functional areas, such as patient rights, patient treatment, and infection control. The standards focus not simply on an organization's ability to provide safe, high quality care, but on its actual performance as well. Standards set forth performance expectations for activities that affect the safety and quality of patient care. If an organization does the right things and does them well, there is a strong likelihood that its patients will experience good outcomes. The Joint Commission develops its standards in consultation with health care experts, providers, measurement experts, purchasers, and consumers.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE (IOM) (www.iom.edu)

The nation turns to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies for science-based advice on matters of biomedical science, medicine, and health. A nonprofit organization specifically created for this purpose as well as an honorific membership organization, the IOM was chartered in 1970 as a component of the National Academy of Sciences. The Institute provides a vital service by working outside the framework of government to ensure scientifically informed analysis and independent guidance. The IOM's mission is to serve as adviser to the nation to improve health. The Institute provides unbiased, evidence-based, and authoritative information and advice concerning health and science policy to policy-makers, professionals, leaders in every sector of society, and the public at large.