

**DEFENSE INSTITUTE FOR
MEDICAL OPERATIONS (DIMO)
D309069**



**“Infection Control, Hospital Epidemiology and Medical Waste
Management: Local and National Program Development”**

Background: In both industrialized and developing countries, infections acquired in hospitals are an unfortunate but significant cause of medical complication and death. Every healthcare facility can benefit from a patient safety oriented program that institutes global practices to reduce the risk of infection in patients and healthcare staff, systematically assesses where problems with infections are occurring, and implements interventions to remedy persistent and emerging problems.

Program Scope: This five-day MET is intended to help institutional and national level officials write and implement guidelines to reduce the risk of infection in hospitals and to standardize guidelines nationally. Participants learn how to design, staff and implement programs to reduce infection rates in hospitals using evidence-based practices, international guidelines and professional consensus recommendations. Students learn how to cost-justify an infection-prevention program, how to measure and statistically analyze rates of infections within hospitals and how to establish local and national benchmarks. The integration of clinical and microbiological epidemiology allows for the detection of infection transmission clusters within a hospital; national aggregation of this data can facilitate the first identification of disease outbreaks affecting a nation that occur through natural transmission (such as severe influenza or SARS) or through industrial mishaps (contaminated implantable devices or intravenous fluid). The course is scalable based on the level of development in the country where it is held. In areas with rudimentary facilities, the focus is on developing basic procedures and practices to reduce the risk of hospital infection, focusing on, for example, cohorting infectious diseases, reducing surgical wound and IV line infections and designating an authority tasked to address infection. More developed facilities might undertake programs in guideline development for reducing ventilator-associated infections, improving healthcare worker safety from tuberculosis and HIV/hepatitis, and targeting surveillance of specific infections. Advanced facilities can implement the latest evidenced-based guidelines for practices to reduce infection and measure rates in a patient safety/quality improvement program.

Course Objectives: This course is intended to help institutional and national level officials write and implement evidence-based guidelines to reduce the risk of infection in hospitals and to standardize guidelines nationally. This course is particularly well suited to setting up and evaluating measures of effectiveness for hospital infection rates, and can help to build a resilient healthcare facility/system that will fare better with the challenge of disaster—arguing that the best disaster plan is a resilient pre-event infrastructure.

Course Duration: 5 days; **Class Size:** 50 students maximum

How Offered: This course is taught by a Mobile Education Team (MET) of infectious disease physicians, infection control nurses and public health epidemiologists

Intended International Audience: Physicians, nurses and medical administrators who design and implement and/or direct hospital infection control programs on either an institutional or national scale. Microbiology lab officers who serve on an infection control committee, national health authorities who prepare guidelines for the reduction of hospital associated infections and administrators who initiate and monitor national accreditation programs are also appropriate. Epidemiologists working either at a hospital level or with national health epidemiology and patient safety advocates are also appropriate participants.

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