

IPAC Roadblocks: What's in Your Way?

#2 - Not using your QI program to lobby for your infection prevention needs



Do you sometimes feel that when you voice your infection prevention and control needs, it falls on deaf ears? Do you worry that you are running too thin, but aren't sure what to do about it? Linking Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) and Quality Improvement (QI) programs might be helpful.

QI studies can help you highlight a success, identify a challenge or can provide valuable information on the financial and human costs of health care associated infections (HAIs). It can provide the evidence you need to build a business case supporting or supplementing your IPAC program, so it is important to carefully consider how you present your information. You might consider:

1. Using a tracking spreadsheet to record and follow the costs associated with any outbreaks or clusters in your facility or work with your purchasing department to discuss ways that those expenses can be tracked. The information you collect can be very helpful in making a case for IPAC resources and can save your facility money!

2. Be sure to debrief after outbreaks or clusters of disease and share the lessons learned. Review learning from past experiences as well and draw attention to areas that have not been addressed. Be sure to share your information with those impacted as well as administration to provide support for your IPAC recommendations.



3. Conducting audits regularly! Though they get a bad rap sometimes, audits really help you to target areas of your program that could use more attention. Hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and other procedural audits can highlight weak areas and allow you to focus your IPAC educational activities or team discussions more effectively. Audits can identify areas where you need a champion or places where environmental changes need to occur in order to improve HAIs.

4. Don't forget to mention the positive! When under resourced, it is easy to have your communications focus only on your needs. Be sure to give special mention to those parts of your programs that are working well and HOW you have made it work for your program. Sometimes there are great lessons to be learned when you review your successes, so find ways of applying those to your more challenging program areas and make note of why they can, or can't, work.

Do you have any experience with linking your IPAC program with QI within your organization? Do you have some creative ideas to address this roadblock? Have you implemented any (or all) of the suggestions above? Talk about it on [IPAC Chat](#) so that others can learn from your experience.

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