Generations of Infection Prevention

INTERNATIONAL INFECTION PREVENTION WEEK 2026

Past. Present. Protected.

What Is Wrong With This Hospital Room?

interactive in-facility activity



Instructions

Purpose

Create an engaging **Environment of Care (EOC)** challenge by staging a patient care room with multiple infection prevention and safety findings. Staff enter the room, identify as many findings as possible, and record them on a tally sheet. This activity encourages observation skills and reinforces the importance of maintaining a safe healthcare environment.

Step 1: Secure a Room for the Activity

- Identify and reserve an unoccupied room, classroom, conference room, or simulation room for the day.
- Ensure the room will not be used for patient care while the activity is in progress.
- Notify department leaders and Environmental Services as appropriate.
- Place signage outside the room indicating that it is part of an International Infection Prevention Week activity.

Step 2: Stage the Room

Create multiple Environment of Care findings throughout the room. Ensure all items used are safe and cannot be confused with real patient care supplies intended for use. Below are some ideas on how to stage the room:

- Overfilled sharps container
- Empty hand sanitizer dispenser
- Torn exam table or mattress surface
- Insects/bugs visible in light fixtures
- Dust accumulation on air vents
- Stained ceiling tile suggestive of water damage
- Expired products or supplies
- Open container of disinfectant wipes
- Dirty or torn linens
- Evidence of a leaking pipe or water intrusion
- Clean linens stored uncovered or on the floor
- Body fluid contamination on a high-touch surface such as a door handle
- Foley drainage bag resting on the floor
- Full sharps container

Ideas on HOW to create the Staged Room:

- Scatter expired supplies throughout the room (no expired supplies – use a sharpie!)
- Leave disinfectant wipe containers open.
- Empty or disable a sanitizer dispenser (clearly marked for the activity).
- Place linens on the floor to suggest improper storage or a leak response.
- Position a Foley drainage bag so it is resting on the floor.
- Place a stained paper sign near a sink or pipe to indicate a leak.
- Use visual props or printed images to represent contamination, insects, or water damage when needed.

Activity Instructions for Participants

1. Provide each participant or team with a findings sheet.
2. Allow 2 to 5 minutes to observe the room.
3. Participants should document every finding they identify.
4. Do not permit participants to move items or open cabinets.
5. Review the findings afterward and discuss why each issue represents an Environment of Care or infection prevention concern.

Suggested Debrief

After the activity, review each finding and discuss the potential impact on patient safety, infection prevention, regulatory compliance, and the overall healthcare environment. Consider awarding small prizes for the individual or team that identifies the most findings.

Take photos of your team completing the activity, and tag APIC on our socials!

#IIPW #IIPW26



What Is Wrong With This Hospital Room?

Participant Score Sheet

Name: _____

Department: _____

Team Name: _____ **Score:** ___ / ___

Instructions: Enter the room and identify as many Environment of Care and Infection Prevention findings as possible. Record each finding below.

#	Finding Identified	Facilitator Check
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
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9		
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11		
12		
13		
14		
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20		