



Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

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Health Notification
CDC Infection Prevention Guide for Outpatient Settings
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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has just released a guide and checklist for outpatient (ambulatory care) settings to promote infection control in their facilities. The recommendations contained within the *Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care* are not new, but reflect existing evidence-based guidelines produced by the CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). The recommendations contained within the *Guide* represent the minimum expectations for safe care in all outpatient settings.

By highlighting existing CDC and HICPAC recommendations, this *Guide*:

- 1) Provides basic infection prevention recommendations for outpatient settings;
- 2) Reaffirms Standard Precautions as the foundation for preventing transmission of infectious agents during patient care in all healthcare settings; and
- 3) Provides links to full guidelines and source documents, which readers can reference for more detailed background and recommendations.

The *Guide* can be downloaded here:

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/guidelines/standatds-of-ambulatory-care-7-2011.pdf>.

The *Guide* is accompanied by an *Infection Prevention Checklist for Outpatient Settings* and other supporting materials, including a new, no-cost, certified continuing medical education course titled *Unsafe Injection Practices: Outbreaks, Incidents and Root Causes*. The video course was developed in collaboration with the Safe Injection Practices Coalition, a partnership of healthcare-related organizations led by the CDC that was formed to promote safe injection practices in all U.S. healthcare settings.

The *Checklist* can be downloaded here:

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/guidelines/ambulatory-care-checklist-07-2011.pdf>.

The video course can be accessed on the CDC website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/settings/outpatient/outpatient-settings.html>.

The *Guide* is attached digitally for email recipients and is available for download, along with other resources such as infection prevention brochures and posters, from the PDPH Health Information Portal (<https://hip.phila.gov>).

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