

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ADDITION TO IPC-02-02 – EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR UNLICENSED PERSONNEL

APPENDIX TO INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL STANDARD



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INTRODUCTION

The update to the CDSS Infection and Prevention Control Standard in February 2026 includes the following addition to section IPC-02-02:

Unlicensed personnel must complete a formal training course or module from a recognized educational institution focused on infection prevention and control in the dental facility.

1. WHY HAS THE COLLEGE INTRODUCED A REQUIREMENT FOR UNLICENSED PERSONNEL TO COMPLETE FORMAL IPC TRAINING?

The College has introduced this requirement to ensure that individuals working in dental facilities, particularly unlicensed personnel, possess foundational knowledge of infection prevention and control (IPC), including the principles related to the transmission of disease.

This requirement is intended to support safe dental practice by ensuring staff have a baseline understanding of IPC principles, so they are competent to support infection prevention processes within a dental facility.

The College recognizes that employers and practice owners have an existing responsibility to ensure a safe environment for patients and staff. This includes providing orientation and onboarding specific to the unique environment and workflows of their practice.

This new requirement **does not replace or diminish the employer's responsibility** to provide workplace orientation and ongoing training. Practice-specific training remains necessary, as every dental facility has unique protocols and processes.

2. DOES THIS REQUIREMENT REPLACE EMPLOYER-LED TRAINING OR ORIENTATION?

No.

Employers and practice owners remain responsible for ensuring that staff receive appropriate orientation and training related to the specific procedures, equipment, and infection control processes used within their dental facility.

The purpose of the new requirement is to ensure that unlicensed personnel have baseline, foundational IPC knowledge obtained through a reputable education institution. This knowledge complements, but does not replace, practice-specific training provided by the employer.

3. IS THE COLLEGE APPROVING SPECIFIC IPC COURSES?

The College has established a benchmark that the required training should be obtained through a recognized educational institution.

Examples include institutions such as:

- Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- University of Saskatchewan

Courses offered through such institutions that reasonably include learning outcomes related to infection prevention and control would be considered an acceptable way to meet this requirement.

Registrants seeking guidance may contact the College with examples of courses that align with the requirement for review.

4. WHAT TYPES OF COURSES WOULD MEET THIS REQUIREMENT?

Courses offered by recognized educational institutions that provide education related to infection prevention and control within a dental or healthcare setting would generally be considered appropriate.

For example, the Saskatchewan Polytechnic- Dispensary Assistant (DENT 1622) would be considered a reasonable course that meets the intent of this requirement.

5. WHEN DOES THIS REQUIREMENT APPLY TO NEW EMPLOYEES?

Any unlicensed personnel hired after the implementation of this requirement are expected to have completed the required IPC education prior to, or at the time of, employment in the dental facility.

Employers should ensure that new hires meet this requirement as part of their hiring and onboarding processes going forward.

6. WHAT ABOUT EXISTING UNLICENSED PERSONNEL ALREADY EMPLOYED IN DENTAL FACILITIES?

Unlicensed personnel who were employed prior to the implementation of this requirement are expected to achieve compliance within a reasonable transition period.

The College expects that existing personnel will complete the required education within six (6) months of the standard update.

7. WHAT IS THE OVERALL INTENT OF THIS REQUIREMENT?

The intent of the requirement is to ensure that individuals supporting dental care environments have a reasonable foundational understanding of infection prevention and control, particularly related to disease transmission.

This foundational knowledge supports safer practices within dental facilities and strengthens the overall infection prevention and control culture across the profession.

8. DO I NEED TO MAINTAIN A RECORD OF COMPLETION?

Yes.

Employers must maintain records of completion with respect to unlicensed personnel completion of infection prevention and control formal training course for the minimum length of 10 years as per IPC-06-16 – Maintenance of Records.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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