



**Environmental Services & Infection Control:**

**IPAC Intersections**

# First Things First...

We need to look both  
ways before crossing  
the street!



# ES Forums

- Support for ES role in IPAC
- Networking and sharing with peers
- Exposure to relevant resources
- Topics and discussion driven by group
- London, Wingham, Owen Sound
- 3 times per year at each location



# Typical Format

- Registration & coffee
- Brief presentation on chosen topic
- Discussion & questions specific to topic
- Open round table discussion
- Choose focus for next meeting



# Deliverables/Outcomes

- “Community of Practice”
  - Pose questions for peer feedback
  - Practical, realistic solutions
  - Learning based on real-life experience
- Exposure to IPAC expertise & Best Practices
  - Inexpensive, provides ongoing education
- Create an ongoing support network



# Topics

- CBC Marketplace “Dirty Hospitals”
- *C. difficile* Outbreaks
- Environmental Cleaning Auditing
- New Cleaning Technologies
- Laundry Practices

# LTC IPAC Review Program

- Comprehensive review of IPAC practices
- Collaborative, supportive, voluntary
- Based on up-to-date best practice
- Long range goals
- Local pilot - provincial pilot



# IPAC Review Program

Book Appointment by Phone



PHO Staff Conduct the Visit



Priority Report



Detail Report








6-month follow-up visit



## Deliverables/Outcomes

Quick Reference Chart of Recommendations:

Topic	Item	Details	Photo
General IPAC 	1. Use of wound spray	The use of sprays in health care settings is discouraged.	 IMG 1646
	2. Expired product	Expired alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR), medical solutions, cleaning products were observed.	 IMG 1510
Cleaning and Disinfection of Equipment/ Medical Devices	3. Sprayer Wands	A sprayer wand is used to clean bedpans in the hopper.	 IMG 1719
Environmental Cleaning	4. Toilet Brushes	One toilet brush is used per unit.	 IMG 1468

- Priority Report-“red light” issues
- Detailed Report:
  - Description of IPAC issue
  - Prioritizes IPAC concerns
  - Recommendations & Resources
  - Photographs, if possible
- LTCHs take ownership of report
- Valuable resource for future interactions

## *Observations:* **Hand Hygiene**

- ABHR at point-of-care
- Expired product
- Lack of audits
- Hand care program
- Resident hand hygiene



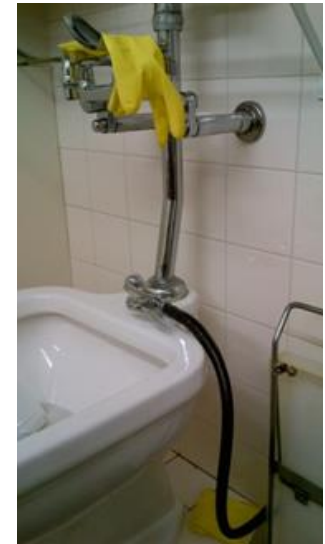
## *Observations:* **Environmental Cleaning**

- Cleaning schedules
- Toilet brushes
- Furniture
- Water features/fish tank
- Expired products



## Observations: Cleaning Equipment

- Sprayer wands
- Foot care equipment
- Inappropriate storage of clean/sterile items
- Shared equipment (e.g. lift slings)



## Observations: Resident Care

- PPE accessibility
- Multi-use products
- Use of wound sprays
- Animal therapy programs
- Dedicated toileting



## Observations: Structural Issues

- Worn/damaged surfaces
- Difficult to clean surfaces (e.g. wicker)
- Cracked tiles; missing grout
- Stained, non-intact ceiling tiles



# What We Heard:

- Respecting Roles
- Cross Training
- Communication Breakdowns:
  - Terminal cleans
  - Additional Precautions
  - Proper use of PPE & Risk Assessment
- IPAC Training and Support for ES leaders

# Reflection:

**Does this reflect the relationship  
between IPAC and Environmental  
Services at your facility?**



This activity is designed to provide you with an opportunity to use the IPAC Intersections Workbook.

This is a tool that you can take back to your workplace and use to enhance communications between IPAC and ES.

Lets review the **sample scenario** and then, in **groups of 10**, ‘**assume your role**’ and **discuss Scenario #1** in your workbook

## Scenario #1: The Sharps Container

Responding to a request from IPAC, the ES department at Forrest Glenn LTC Home installed point-of-use sharps containers into white plastic wall mounted holders which block view of the fill line on the container. Housekeeping staff are to check the containers daily and have the key which unlocks the holders for cleaning and replacing the containers when full. A HCW suffered a needle stick injury when she deposited a razor into a overfilled container.

# Discussion

What are the IPAC and Environmental Services roles and where do they merge?

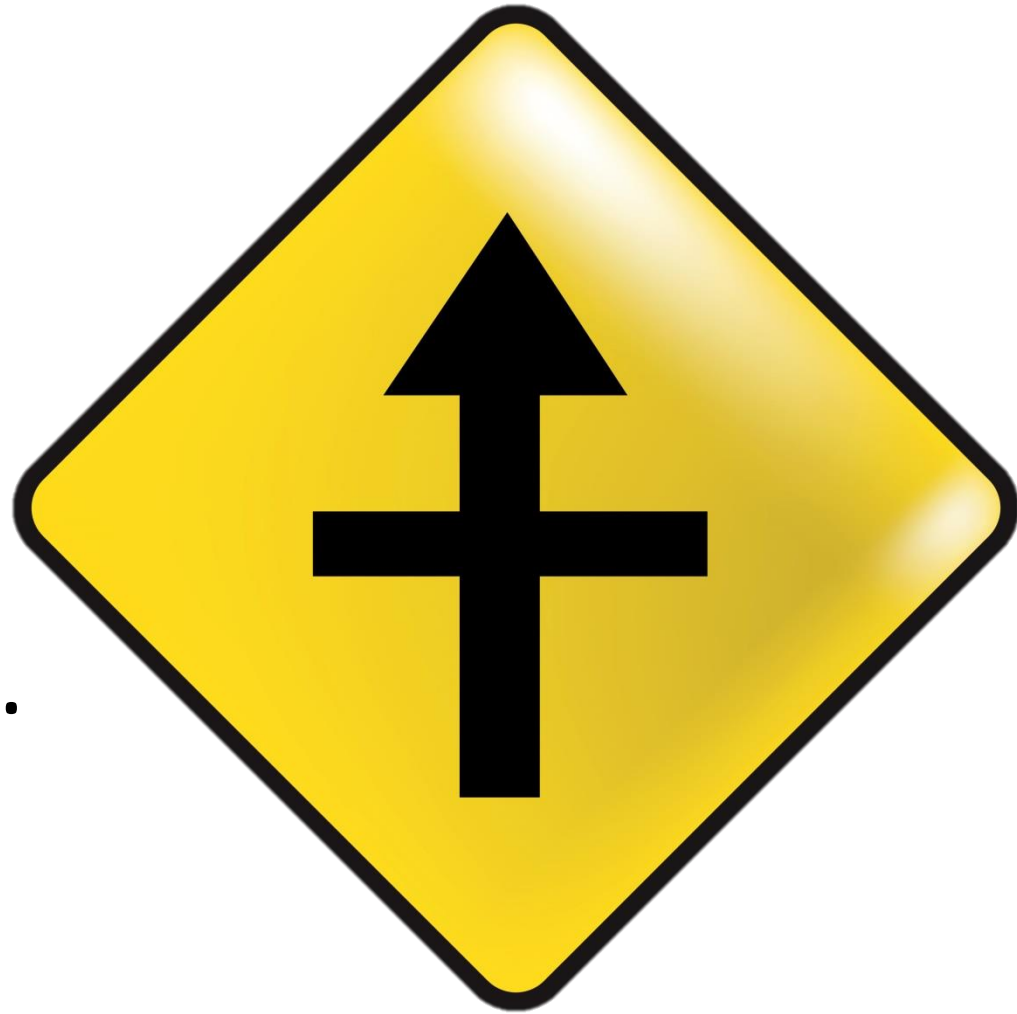


# Discussion:

What might be some road blocks preventing a successful merge?



**Discussion:**  
Identify some  
opportunities for  
IPAC Intersections.



## **Scenario #2: ABHR Placement and POC**

Staff at Maple Valley Long Term Care Home have been trained on the 4 Moments of Hand Hygiene. They know they should access ABHR in between care activities on the same resident (aka “Point of Care”).

The ABHR dispensers were installed at the entrance to the resident rooms. The staff may access the ABHR on their way into and out of the resident room. The dispensers are out of the way of the housekeeping carts.

# Discussion

What are the IPAC and Environmental Services roles and where do they merge?



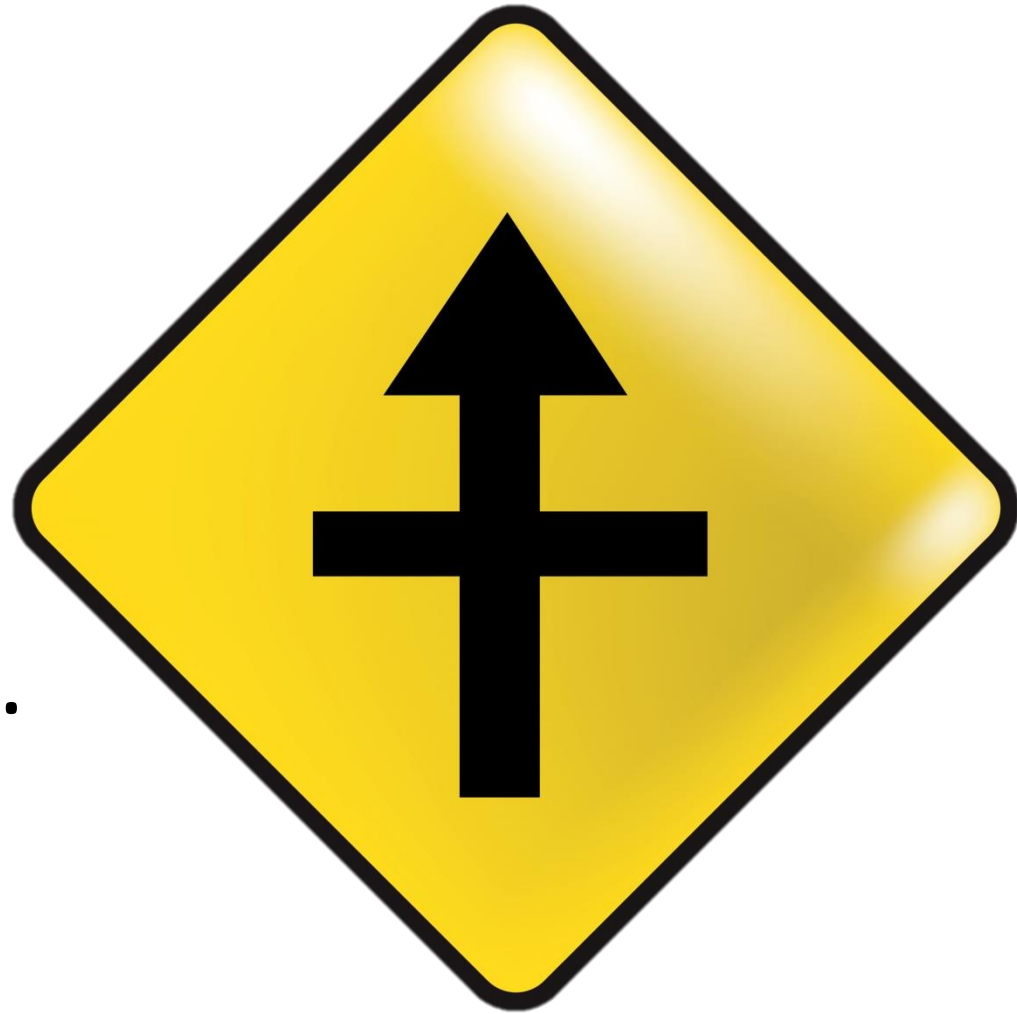
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**Discussion:**  
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## Scenario #3: The CDI Resident

Today, Mrs. Smith, a resident of Grand Villa Manor, was placed on Contact Precautions because she tested positive for *Clostridium difficile*. An isolation cart with PPE was placed outside her door and a Contact Precautions sign was placed on her door.

Staff were informed of this in a communications book, but Environmental Services doesn't review the communications book.

# Discussion

What are the IPAC and Environmental Services roles and where do they merge?

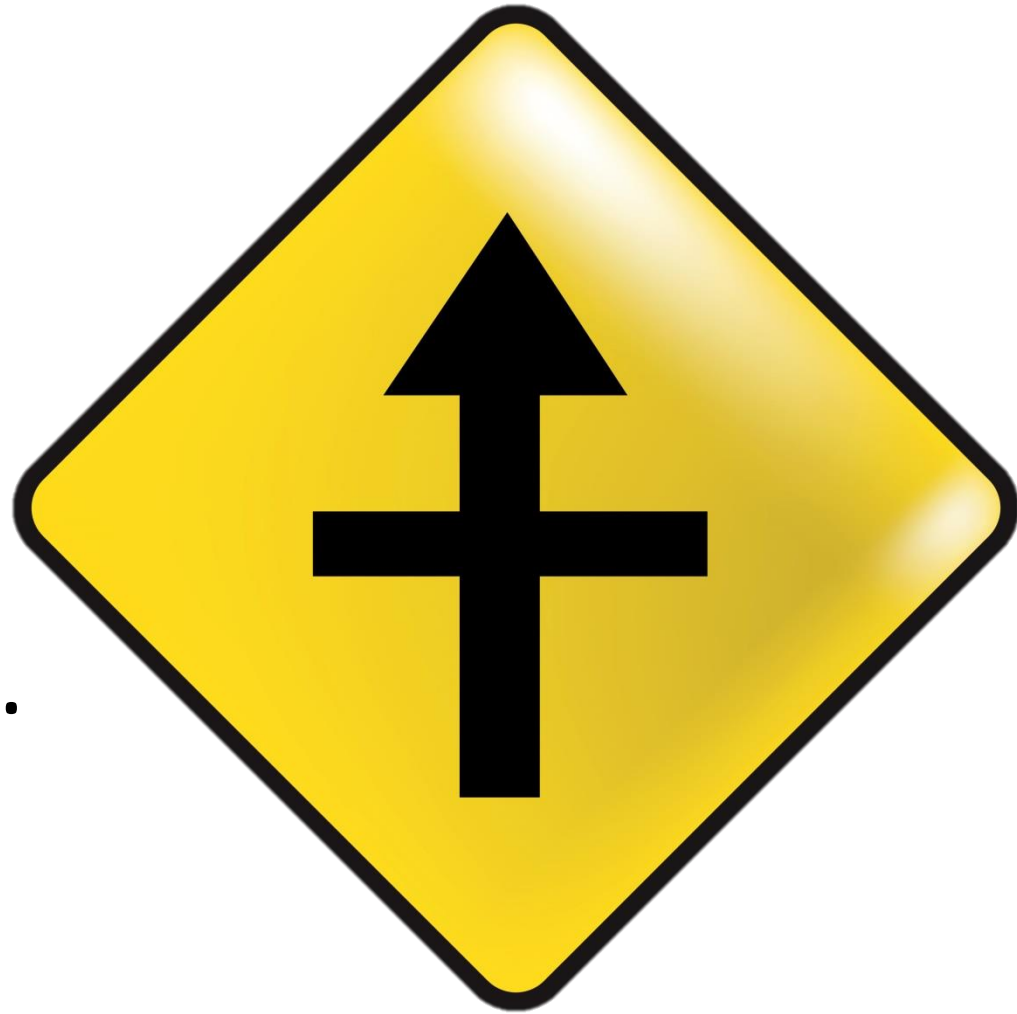


# Discussion:

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**Discussion:**  
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## Scenario #4: Responsibility for Cleaning

At Happy Elm LTC Home, the Nursing Department and Environmental Services Department order their cleaning and disinfecting products separately. Each Department has their own preference, but have not consulted with each other about their choices

Nursing staff are responsible for cleaning shared equipment. They believe Environmental Services cleans all carts, including the treatment cart.

Environmental Services understand that nursing staff clean their own carts and equipment.

# Discussion

What are the IPAC and Environmental Services roles and where do they merge?



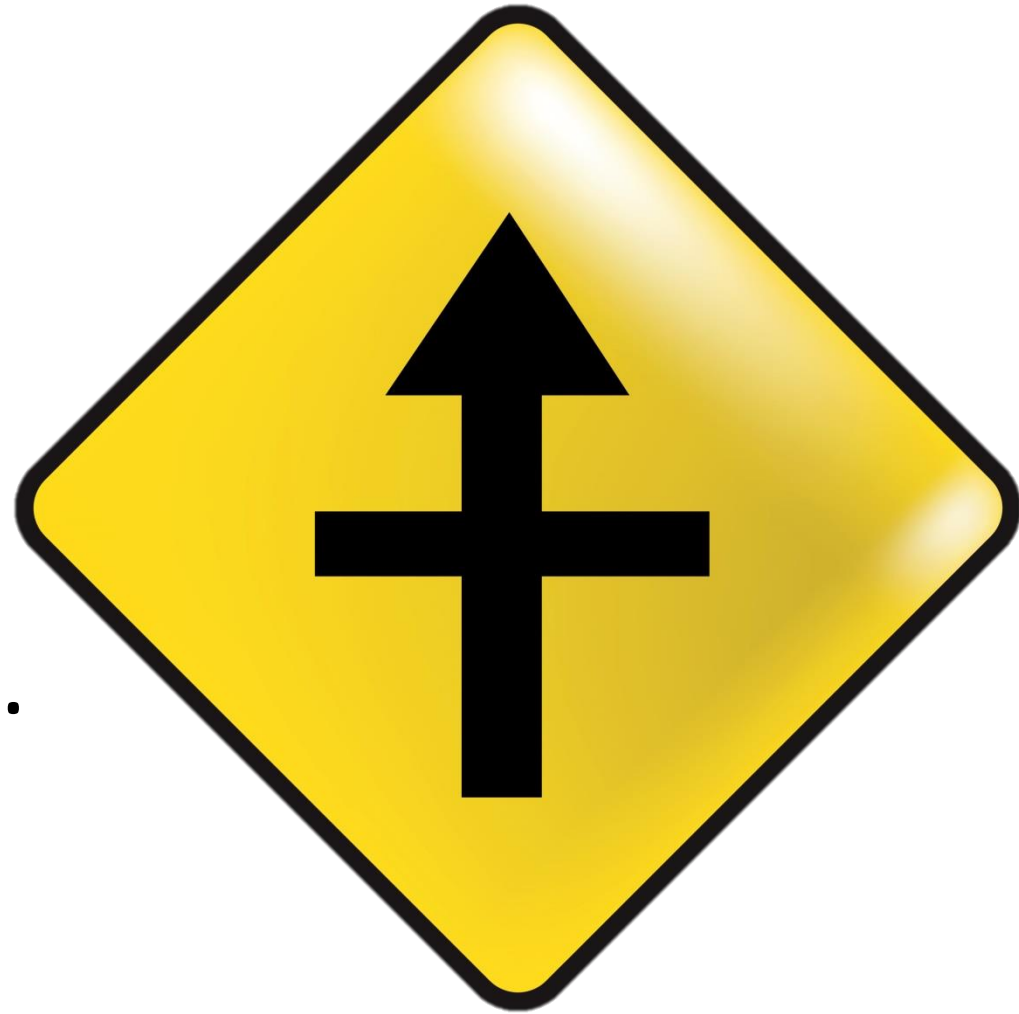
# Discussion:

What might be some road blocks preventing a successful merge?





**Discussion:**  
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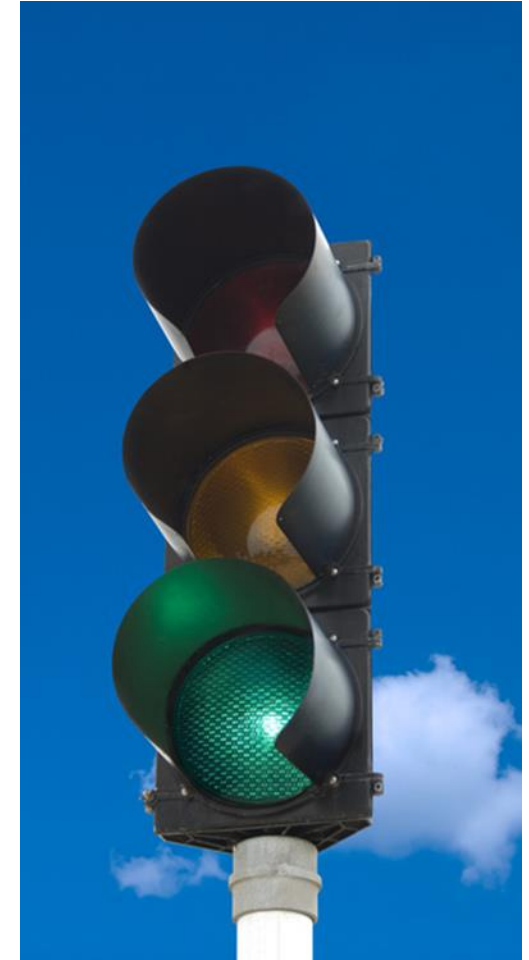
## Discussion:

Can you think of other situations that are opportunities for intersections and collaborations?



# Conclusion

- Both play a key role in helping to control health care acquired infections
- Roles are quite different but often intersect
- Work interdependently; need to support each other
- Strategies need to be developed to
  - Promote good communications
  - Coordinate auditing to help ensure best practices are followed
  - Address education and training needs of staff in these roles



*Thank you!*

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US AT  
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