



Practice Briefs

What is an Infection Control Risk Assessment for Construction?

An Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) is an essential first step in the planning process for new construction or major renovation in healthcare facilities. The planning process is a collaboration among Infection Preventionists (IPs), epidemiologists, architects, engineers, and other stakeholders, to ensure that design of specific structures facilitates desired infection prevention and control program practices. The ICRA is followed by interventions, monitoring and continuous assessment and improvement at an organizational level, during operational projects¹.

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC) has guidelines for incorporating an ICRA into the overall construction plan. The APIC Text, 4th Edition, summarizes the guidance:

The ICRA shall be conducted by a committee with expertise in infection control, direct patient care, risk management, facility design, construction, ventilation, safety and epidemiology. The committee *shall provide documentation* of the risk assessment together with updated mitigation recommendations throughout planning, design, and construction and commissioning. The owner shall also provide monitoring of the effectiveness of the applied Infection Control Risk Mitigation Recommendations (ICRMR) during the course of the project. The owner shall ensure that construction-related ICRMR and ICRA-generated design recommendations are incorporated into project requirements¹.

You can find an example to use for your ICRA at this link

http://abatement.hughesandco.ca/media/attachment/file/t/h/the_importance_of_conducting_a_comprehensive_icra.pdf. Accessed March 19, 2018.

Reference:

1. Grotta, P. (2014). *APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: APIC.

ICAP is a cooperative effort of UNMC/Nebraska Medicine and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. "ICAP Practice Briefs" are intended to provide evidence-based guidance on infection prevention issues; check linked references directly for the most current and more detailed information.