



Summary:

The team discussed what an ICAR is on this episode. ICAR stands for Infection Control Assessment and Response and is a formal way to evaluate an infection prevention and control program in a dental setting.

Discussion Points:

1. ICAR stands for Infection Control Assessment and Response and is conducted by an infection control expert.
2. Regular assessment of a facility's infection prevention and control program with a structured tool is essential to stay up to date on recommendations and regulations.
3. There are many tools for a facility to conduct their own review of their infection prevention and control program. The CDC Basic Expectations for Safe Care Checklist, the CDC Dental Check App and Nebraska ICAP's Policy Assessment and Direct Observation Checklists are some tools that can be used.
4. If you are interested in assessing your own program, start small and get the buy in of the leadership. Beginning with the assessment of one infection control domain is a great way to understand how the tools work and address opportunities for improvement without becoming overwhelmed.
5. If you have questions, call an expert! Nebraska ICAP is always happy to help if you live within Nebraska. You can also call your State's Healthcare Acquired Infection/ Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) with questions.

Resource List:

1. CDC. Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/pdf/safe-care2.pdf>
2. CDC. Dental Check App. <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/dentalcheck.html>
3. Nebraska ICAP. Infection Prevention and Control Policy Assessment Checklist. <https://icap.nebraskamed.com/resource/dental-infection-control-policy-and-process-checklist/>
4. Nebraska ICAP. Infection Prevention and Control Direct Observation Checklist. <https://icap.nebraskamed.com/resource/dental-infection-control-direct-observation-checklist/>