

ELEMENT I

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ADHERE TO SCIENTIFICALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF INFECTION CONTROL IN ALL HEALTHCARE SETTINGS AND TO OVERSEE AND MONITOR THOSE MEDICAL AND ANCILLARY PERSONNEL FOR WHOM THE PROFESSIONAL IS RESPONSIBLE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of course work or training on this element, the learner will be able to:

- Recognize the benefit to patients and healthcare workers of adhering to scientifically accepted principles and practices of infection prevention and control;
- Recognize the professional's responsibility to adhere to scientifically accepted infection prevention and control practices in all healthcare settings and the consequences of failing to comply; and
- Recognize the professional's responsibility to monitor infection prevention and control practices of those medical and ancillary personnel for whom he or she is responsible and intervene as necessary to assure compliance and safety.

CONTENT OUTLINE

- I. Sources and definition of standards of professional conduct as they apply to infection prevention and control.
 - A. Rules of the Board of Regents, Part 29.2 (a)(13);
 - B. Part 92 of Title 10 (Health) of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of New York;
 - C. Statements of relevant professional and national organizations.

II. Implications of professional conduct standards.

- A. Professional responsibility to adhere to infection control standards;
- B. Professional responsibility for monitoring and overseeing the practice of others who are their responsibility;
- C. Consequences of failing to follow accepted standards of infection prevention and control.
 - 1. Increased risk of adverse health outcomes for patients and healthcare workers;
 - 2. Healthcare professionals may be subject to charges of professional misconduct:
 - a. Mechanisms for reporting misconduct;
 - b. Complaint investigation;
 - c. Possible outcomes:
 - 1) Disciplinary action;
 - 2) Revocation of professional license;
 - 3) Professional liability.

III. Methods of Compliance.

- A. Participation in required infection prevention and control training;
- B. Adherence to accepted principles and practices of infection prevention and control.