

to assess sustained compliance over time. Four months after

approval of the Evidence of Standards Compliance, the organization will submit data on its Measure of Success to demonstrate a track record. Any exchange of information between the health care organization and The Joint Commission will meet HIPAA requirements. For more information about the tracer methodology, or other key components of the accreditation process, please review Supplemental Reading #2.

4.

#### **Inspection Preparation**

Most recent JC standards for infection prevention
& control

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SR#2

- · Related standards
- TJC website
- · TJC Survey Activity Guide
- · Other IPs recently surveyed
- · Other institutions with the same survey team

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In order to prepare for an inspection, the most recent JC standards are necessary. As I mentioned earlier, the infection prevention and control standards are not the only JC standards that have infection control application. There are some in Leadership, Environment of Care, and Medical Staff Credentialing in TJC (JCAHO) manuals, that have infection control-related standards. One very good resource is the Joint Commission website itself. TJC has published a document entitled "Survey Activity Guide for Health Care Organizations" (Source:

http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/2014\_organizatio n\_sag.pdf) (Supplemental Reading #2). There is a JC publication called, "Perspectives", a newsletter-type document. There are also many other references that are listed on that website. Finding out what other infection preventionists have recently been surveyed is probably the very best thing that you can do if it has been recent. That is because they'll be using the most current guidelines for that inspection. You may be able to anticipate what the "hot spots" are to prepare ahead of time. It is helpful if you can find if you are getting the same survey team as another institution and find out what happened, what questions were asked. The last time I was involved in a JC inspection was September of 2000. We had the misfortune of having the survey leader be an ex-infection preventionist, making it especially challenging!

5.

## **IC Rounds & Mock Surveys**

- Any survey partners?
- –Any rounds already underway?
- List critical or most frequent problems to assess (e.g., food at nursing desk)
- · Develop tool
- -require corrective action plan
- -IC follow-up plan



Many facilities will conduct what they call "mock infection control inspections". They may hire consultants to come in and inspect the facility. As an IP, you might survey the community and find any hospitals in your area already conducting mock rounds. These are good resources for finding out what happened during their mock inspections. You should list what you think are the most critical or most important problems to assess. One example is having food at the nursing desk, a practice that JC or OSHA often cite facilities for, especially if there are patient specimens or centrifuges (where you spin blood samples) located in the same area. That's just an example of one thing you could look at. You could also develop tools for survey preparation. There are many different ones available from colleagues or the Internet to look at what corrective actions you need to do at your facility and tools for completing those corrective actions.

## **System Tracer-Infection Control**

- TJC participants
- · Organization participants
- · Logistical needs
- Objectives
- Overview
- Topics



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Let's next outline the system tracer for infection control. The Joint Commission Participants include the surveyors. The organization's suggested participants include the infection control coordinator for each program being surveyed; physician member of the infection control team; clinicians from the laboratory; clinicians knowledgeable about the selection of medications available for use and pharmacokinetic monitoring, as applicable; facility or facilities staff; organization leadership; and staff involved in the direct provision of care, treatment, or services. The duration of this session is approximately 30-60 minutes.

The surveyor will:

- ☐ Learn about the planning, implementation, and evaluation of your organization's infection control
- program
- Evaluate your organization's process for the infection control plan development, outcome of the
- annual infection control evaluation process, and oversight of opportunities for improvement
- Understand the processes used by your organization to reduce infection
- The infection control session begins during one of the individual tracers where the surveyor identifies an individual patient with an infectious disease. This session is conducted in two parts. During the first part, surveyors meet with staff from all programs being surveyed to discuss your organization's infection control program. During the remaining time, surveyors spend their time where care, treatment, or services are provided.
- Topics of discussion include:
- How individuals with infections are identified
- Laboratory testing and confirmation process, if applicable
- Staff orientation and training activities
- Current and past surveillance activity
- Analysis of infection control data
- Reporting of infection control data
- Prevention and control activities (for example, staff training, staff and licensed independent
- practitioner vaccinations and other health-related requirements, housekeeping procedures,
- organization-wide hand hygiene, food sanitation, and the storage, cleaning, disinfection,
- sterilization and/or disposal of supplies and equipment)
- Staff exposure
- Physical facility changes that can impact infection control and
- Actions taken as a result of surveillance and outcomes of those actions

(Note: These topics are covered by surveyors during other activities on surveys that do not have a specific system tracer related to infection control.) Please review Required Reading #2

7. During an inspection, it is really very important that as an IP, you keep in touch with your hospital inspection team (the Strategies for Interview-1 persons from your facility assigned to accompany TJC survey Keep in touch with hospital team team) on an hourly basis. They will be able to give you a Team approach best strategy: "heads up" if any infection control issues arise, so that you -IP's & Hospital Epidemiologist can prepare before you meet with TJC. We always found that -Microbiology -Medical Administration the best approach, when TJC did meet with us is to have the -Employee Health Services Infection Preventionists, the Hospital Epidemiologist, someone from the laboratory (the Micro lab), someone from Medical Administration and an Employee Health representative present. One strategy that is helpful during JC surveys is the use of 8. **Strategies for Interview-2** visual aids. Critically think about your program before Joint Commission comes, so that you can share success stories Use of visual aids to demonstrate success (e.g., decline in needlestick injuries in healthcare workers, -Storyboards demonstrating successful PI process successful educational program on new isolation systems). A -Examples of improvements made presentation tool known as a storyboard could be used for this though efforts of IC team purpose. It is a poster with the issue, how you implemented • Needlestick injury rates declined · Education for new isolation system interventions to deal with that issue and what the outcomes were. You would want to use a successful program to demonstrate with a storyboard. 9. Here are some additional strategies for the TJC infection control interview. First, of course, you are going to answer all **Strategies for Interview-3** questions honestly. However, you don't need to volunteer Answer all questions honestly but negative information, especially if NOT in response to a DON'T volunteer negative information specific question. Open-ended questions are very tricky. So if Open-ended questions are tricky a surveyor asks you, for example to, "Tell us about your Example of open-ended vs. closed ended isolation categories?" You could say, "Yes. We use these 4 categories but nobody follows them." You DON'T want to say that. There's a skill in answering an open-ended question. Instead, you could say, "We use these 4 categories and presented education to all employees when we started them". You could mention positive outcomes that you achieved. Now let's give an example of a closed-ended versus an openended question. The topic is tuberculosis exposures in the hospital. A closed-ended question would be, "Do you think you have an excess number of TB exposures at your facility? If the answer is Yes", then it doesn't really allow for you to expand. A related open-ended question might be, "Tell us what you think contributes to the large number of TB exposures at your facility." Here is your chance to expand, explain, or even justify your program, especially if they are not correct. An example of a response to this would be "We have a policy. The policy requires all new patients on admission, if they have an upper-lobe infiltrate, to be placed immediately in isolation. They do not come out of isolation until certain requirements are met. If a doctor does not write an order, a

nurse can still put a patient in isolation. Our county has the highest number of TB cases in the country, so taking that into consideration, we do not really have an excess number of exposures." That would be a way to give the information you

want but not offer any negative information. Another strategy Joint Commission uses is to go around and ask employees questions to determine if they are familiar with infection control policies. One example would be to ask a laboratory worker, "Do you know what universal precautions or standard precautions are? When do you wear gloves? How do you clean up a blood spill?". IPs need to make sure that the program is in place and that employees can answer the question correctly. The recommendation is that a facility always be survey ready. Upon completion of the survey process, the exit conference is 10. Exit held. Participants include the JC surveyors and the Conference organization's participants (such as the CEO/Administrator or designee, senior leaders and staff as identified by the · Participants-surveyors & organization officials CEO/Administrator or designee). The suggested duration of • Duration- ~ 30 minutes this session is approximately 30 minutes and takes place • Objectives-summary of survey findings & standards compliance issues immediately following the Exit Briefing. During the exit **Overview**- review of report, discussion, requirements for improvement conference surveyors will verbally review the Summary of Survey Findings Report and review identified standards compliance issues. Surveyors will verify with participants that all documents have been returned to the organization. Discussion will include the Requirements for Improvement and any patterns or trends in performance revealed by the Priority Focus Areas and Clinical/Service Groups. If follow-up is required, the surveyors will explain the submission process 11. Let's review what we've talked about regarding the Joint Commission. First, we have described the general JC **TJC Summary** inspection process using tracer methodology and then specifically described the infection control session. It is really important to see how other colleagues have fared before a TJC inspection process facility is inspected by TJC because it may provide insight into · May need to see how others fare before you are inspected areas that can be worked on ahead of time. Finally, the · Need to always be "survey ready" "continuous" nature of the accreditation process reinforces the need for IPs and their facilities to always be "survey ready". Let's next discuss the Occupational Safety & Health 12. Occupational Safety & Health Administration, or OSHA, which is a regulatory agency. OSHA Administration (OSHA) is a division of the Department of Labor. Its programs are Regulatory agency administered under the jurisdiction of the federal OSH Act and · Most applicable to Infection Control is through approved state plans. The OSH Act of 1970 requires Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (BBPS) an employer to be responsible for providing a workplace free RR#4 of occupational hazards. Probably the standard that is the most applicable to infection control practice is the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (BBPS). It was first published in the early '90s. It was most recently revised in 2001 to include the 2000 Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act's mandate about safer needle devices that we will talk about in Product Evaluation lecture.

## What Triggers an OSHA Inspection?

- Imminent danger situations
- Catastrophes & fatalities
- Employee complaints
- Programmed high hazard



**OSHA** 

What are some events that can trigger an OSHA inspection? Not all 6 million workplaces covered by the Act can be inspected immediately. The worst situations need attention first. Therefore, OSHA has established a system of inspection priorities. Imminent danger situations are given top priority. An imminent danger is any condition where there is reasonable certainty that a danger exists that can be expected to cause death or serious physical harm immediately, or before the danger can be eliminated through normal enforcement procedures. Second priority is given to investigation of fatalities and catastrophes resulting in hospitalization of three or more employees. Such situations must be reported to OSHA by the employer within 8 hours. Investigations are made to determine if OSHA standards were violated and to avoid recurrence of similar accidents. Third priority is given to **employee complaints** of alleged violation of standards or of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions. (Also included in this category are serious referrals of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions from other sources, such as local or state agencies or departments.) Next in priority are programmed, or planned, inspections aimed at specific high-hazard industries, occupations or health substances. Industries are selected for inspection on the basis of factors such as the death, injury and illness incidence rates, and employee exposure to toxic substances. Special emphasis may be regional or national in scope, depending on the distribution of the workplaces involved. States with their own occupational safety and health programs may use somewhat different systems to identify high-hazard industries for inspection. Finally, in list of priority, is a follow-up inspection to determine whether previously cited violations have been corrected.

Source: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha2098.pdf

14.

## **Employee Complaints** to OSHA



- inspections Confidentiality of employee maintained,
- · OSHA will hold informal review of any decision not to inspect

The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act gives each employee the right to request an OSHA inspection when the employee feels he or she is in imminent danger from a hazard or when he or she feels that there is a violation of an OSHA standard that threatens physical harm. OSHA will maintain confidentiality if requested, will inform the employee of any action it takes regarding the complaint and, if requested, will hold an informal review of any decision not to inspect. Just as in situations of imminent danger, the employee's name will be withheld from the employer, if the employee so requests.

15.

# **Federal OSHA's On-site Inspection**



- On-site workers must file written complaint for on-site inspection
- At least 1 of 8 criteria must be met for OSHA to conduct on-site inspection

OSHA evaluates each complaint to determine how it can be handled best-an off-site investigation or an on-site inspection. Workers who would like an on-site inspection must submit a written request. Workers who complain have the right to have their names withheld from their employers, and OSHA will not reveal this information. At least one of the following eight criteria must be met for OSHA to conduct an on-site inspection:

•A written, signed complaint by a current employee or employee representative with enough detail to enable OSHA to determine that a violation or danger likely exists that threatens physical harm or that an imminent danger exists; •An allegation that physical harm has occurred as a result of the hazard and that it still exists: •A report of an imminent danger; •A complaint about a company in an industry covered by one of OSHA's local or national emphasis programs or a hazard targeted by one of these programs; •Inadequate response from an employer who has received information on the hazard through a phone/fax investigation; •A complaint against an employer with a past history of egregious, willful or failure-to-abate OSHA citations within the past three years; •Referral from a whistle blower investigator; or Complaint at a facility scheduled for or already undergoing an OSHA inspection. An OSHA compliance inspector conducts an OSHA 16. inspection. Most often the inspector is an industrial hygienist **OSHA Compliance Inspector** or a safety specialist. An OSHA compliance officer carries U.S. Department of Labor credentials bearing his or her Industrial Hygienist photograph and a serial number than can be verified by Safety Specialist phoning the nearest OSHA office. Verify credentials

## **Inspection Procedure**

- Introduction & exchange of credentials
- Opening conference
- Inspection tour
- Closing conference



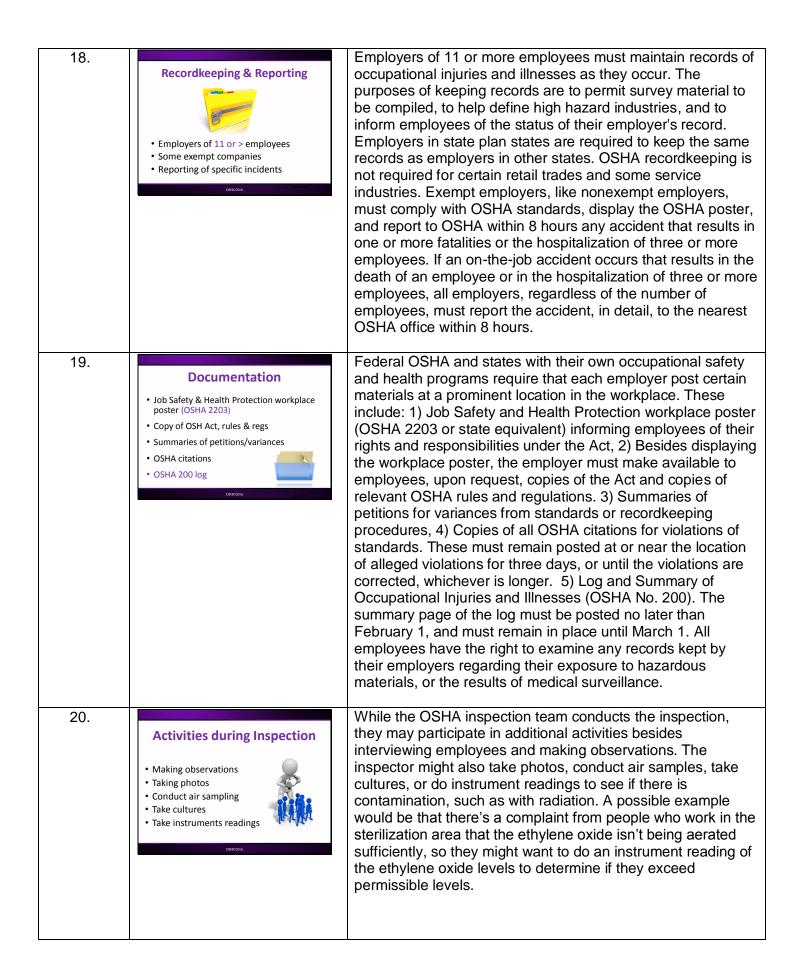


The OSHA inspection works this way. The inspector or team of inspectors (there may be more than one), come in and they show their credentials (as mentioned in previous slide). Then they hold an **opening conference**. In the opening conference, the compliance officer (CSHO) explains why the establishment was selected, the purpose of the visit, the scope of the inspection, and the standards that apply. The employer will be given a copy of any employee complaint that may be involved. If the employee has so requested, his or her name will not be revealed. The employer is asked to select an employer representative to accompany the compliance officer during the inspection. An authorized employee representative also is given the opportunity to attend the opening conference and to accompany the compliance officer during the inspection. The Act does not require that there be an employee representative for each inspection. Where there is no authorized employee representative, however, the compliance officer must consult with a reasonable number of employees concerning safety and health matters in the workplace; such consultations may be held privately. The next step is the **inspection tour**, when the compliance officer and accompanying representatives proceed through the establishment, inspecting work areas for compliance with OSHA standards. Employees are consulted during the inspection tour. The compliance officer may stop and question workers in private about safety and health conditions and practices in their workplaces. You may realize here that this is why it is important for all employees to be familiar with the policies and procedures of their institutions. During the inspection tour, posting and recordkeeping are checked. The compliance officer will inspect records of deaths, injuries and illnesses which the employer is required to keep. During the course of the inspection, the CSHO will point out to the employer any unsafe or unhealthful working conditions observed. At the same time, the CSHO will discuss possible corrective action if the employer so desires. An inspection tour may cover part or all of an establishment, even if the inspection resulted from a specific complaint, fatality or catastrophe. The last step in the inspection procedure is the closing conference, held between the compliance officer and the employer or the employer representative. It is a time for free discussion of problems and needs as well as a time for frank questions and answers. The compliance officer discusses with the employer all unsafe or unhealthful conditions observed on the inspection and indicates all apparent violations for which a citation may be issued or recommended. The employer is told of appeal rights. The compliance officer does not indicate any proposed penalties. Only the OSHA area director has that authority, and only after having received a full report.

Helpful

source: <a href="https://www.osha.gov/dte/grant\_materials/fy10/sh-">https://www.osha.gov/dte/grant\_materials/fy10/sh-</a>

20853-10/osha\_inspections.pdf



## **Citations & Appeals**

- · Received by certified mail
- 6 types of violations
- Appeals by employers & employees

After the compliance officer reports findings, the area director determines what citations, if any, will be issued, and what penalties, if any, will be proposed. Citations inform the employer and employees of the regulations and standards alleged to have been violated and of the proposed length of time set for their abatement. The employer will receive citations and notices of proposed penalties by certified mail. There are 6 types of violations that may be cited: 1) Other Than Serious Violation 2) Serious Violation 3) Willful Violation 4) Repeated Violation 5) Failure to Abate Prior Violation and 6) De Minimis Violation. (If you are interested, the definitions and penalties imposed differ are presented in more detail in the Supplemental reading for this week.) When issued a citation or notice of a proposed penalty, an employer may

request an informal meeting with OSHA's area director to discuss the case. Employee representatives may be invited to attend the meeting. The area director is authorized to enter into settlement agreements that revise citations and penalties

to avoid prolonged legal disputes. If an inspection was initiated due to an employee complaint, the employee or authorized employee representative may request an informal review of any decision not to issue a citation. Employees may not contest citations, amendments to citations, penalties or lack of penalties. They may contest the time in the citation for

abatement of a hazardous condition.

22.

# **OSHA Standards Cited** in Hospitals 2014-2015

## **OSHA**

- Bloodborne pathogens (#1)
- Respiratory protection (#3)
- Hazard Communication (#4)

The standards related to infection prevention and control and cited most frequently by Federal OSHA in Hospitals during the time period from October 2014 through September 2015 by frequency were: 1) Bloodborne Pathogens #1 (39 citations in 17 inspections), 2) Hazard Communication #3 (14 citations in 9 inspections) and 3) Respiratory Protection ranked #4 (13) citations in 5 inspections) The link for this information is located on the slide and in the transcript.

## (Source:

https://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/citedstandard.naics?p naics=6 22&p\_esize=&p\_state=FEFederal)

23.

#### **OSHA BPS Educational Criteria**

- Copy & explanation of standard
- Methods of recognizing
- tasks at risk of exposure
- Use & limitations of engineering controls, work practices & PPE
- Exposure incident procedures
- Post-exposure & followup procedures
- Epidemiology & symptoms Labels & color coding used
  - · Information on HBV

  - On-line programs

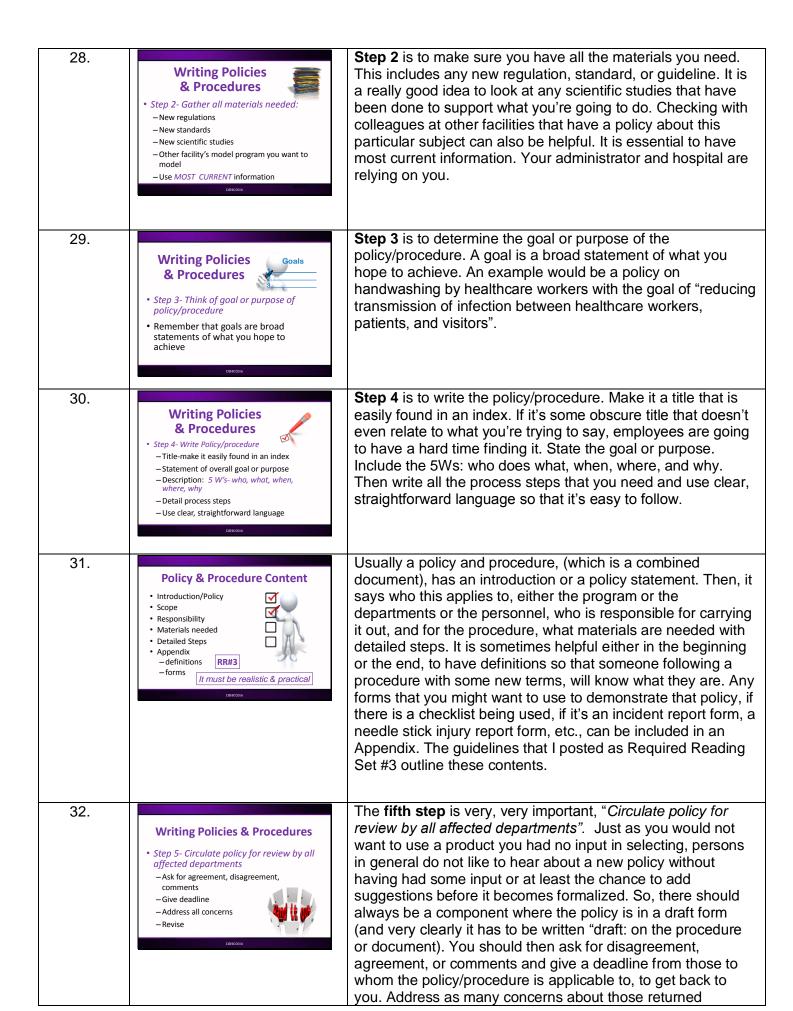
**OSHA** 

OSHA requires that every year healthcare workers who have contact with blood and body fluids on a routine basis, receive education. All of the items listed on this slide must be covered every year, as well as the opportunity for questions and answers provided. To cover the same material the same way, year after year, is not an effective teaching method for adult learners. (You will learn more about this in unit 9.) One of the things that we tried to do at our facility was to mix it up every year. We used a role-playing vignette one year; developed a game called "Valley Feud" another year, then used a Jeopardy game. We used a pre and post-test and selflearning computer modules. There are OSHA-approved online and other interactive programs for this purpose.

Helpful source: OSHA BPS factsheet https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data\_BloodborneFacts/bbfact0 1.pdf

24. We will now discuss policies and procedures. **Policies & Procedures** 25. There is a difference between a policy and a procedure. Often **Definitions** they're interchanged. Often they're combined. First, let's look at what the difference is. A policy is a written statement that - a written statement that clearly indicates clearly delineates the position and values of the organization the position & values of the organization on a given subject on a given subject. It contains rules; and, it tells one what to -It contains rules & tells one what to do Procedure: do. I am going to give you examples in a minute. A procedure, a written set of instructions describing the approval & recommended steps for a particular act or sequence of acts on the other hand, is a written set of instructions describing - It tells one how to perform a set of tasks the approval and recommended steps for a particular act or sequence of acts. It tells one how to perform a set of tasks. If you think about it, there are some things for which there is really only a procedure. There are some things for which there really can only be a policy. For many topics, a combination is required. Let's use an incident report as an example to illustrate how 26. **Example:** this issue requires policy and procedure components. For the **Incident Report** policy statement, an incident report must be completed for **Policy:** "An incident report must be completed for any incident that involves staff, any incident that involves staff, patients, or visitors. For the patients or visitors' procedure component, the incident report must be filled out by Procedure: a particular person/persons, all parts of the form have to be -The supervisor obtains the incident form completed, when completed, a copy is kept in the "x" location. -All parts of the form must be completed -A copy of the form must be kept in..... and the original is submitted to "y" department. There are detailed guidelines for policies, procedures, mission and vision statements, and objectives in the Required Reading #3 this week. Please be sure to review these. 27. Let's talk about the steps of writing a policy and a procedure. For Step 1, you need to ask "why are you doing it in the first **Writing Policies** & Procedures place?" Is it due to be revised? Is there a new regulation that's Step 1- Why are you writing P&P? come out? For example, let's take mandatory reporting of · Is it due to be revised? healthcare acquired infections. There has to be a policy and a • Is there a new regulation/standard /guideline? procedure for that. Pandemic influenza preparedness might · Are you starting a new procedure? need a new policy. Are you starting a new procedure in your • Are you opening a new department? • Are you starting a new program? facility? Are you opening a new department? If you have a new department, there have to be policies and procedures for that department. Are you starting a new open heart program? If so, you will need policies and procedures for that

department.



comments as you can, revise it, and then you'll have to send it out again. You want to make sure that you've got buy-in because if impose a policy/procedure that no one agrees with or has had NO input on, compliance will become an issue. **Step 6** is to bring the policy to the infection control committee, 33. if you have an Infection Control Committee or any committee **Writing Policies** & Procedures whose purview this contains, for approval. They might not get approval the first time and it may need revisions. Then, you • Step 6- Bring policy to Infection Control Committee have to send the revisions out again. Sometimes, it's very - Must be approved by them helpful to use a subcommittee of a larger committee to - May not get approved & needs revision -Send revisions out before meeting & ask for formulate or revise a particular policy. The example that comments back - May need to use subcommittee comes to mind for me was when "Universal Precautions" first came out, and that affected numerous departments. We formed a subcommittee of front-line healthcare workers in affected departments to come up with a policy on "Universal Precautions". This way, all departments involved had input. Another advantage of using a subcommittee was that it did not take time away from the main infection control committee. 34. For this segment, make sure you know the difference between a policy and a procedure, the importance of Make sure you know: employee's having a buy-in or having some input, and making sure everyone affected by the policy/procedure does see it before you finalize it. You should also be able to differentiate · Difference between policy & procedure between policy, procedure, vision, mission and goal · Importance of employee buy-in on policies statements. Need to circulate to all involved parties for 35. For this part, refer to the Accompanying Item #1 entitled **Accompanying Materials Example** "Influenza (Flu) Vaccination Policy for Employees" from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. There are 6 policy statements that describe the Health Center's stance **POLICY** on either employees getting the influenza vaccine or wearing a mask while at work if they decline the vaccine. The policy also includes a purpose and a definition. Now refer to Item #2 in the Accompanying Materials, entitled 36. **Accompanying Materials Example** "Influenza Vaccination Policy for Healthcare Personnel" from "Immunize.org". In this document, even though it is labeled Policy/PROCEDURE as a "policy"-it contains only 1 policy statement. Many healthcare facilities use these combined documents which include one or more policy statements and then the procedure Item # 2 steps for achieving the purpose of the policy. This document example also contains a purpose statement, a definition, and related documents/references. The majority of the rest of this document consists of procedure steps. The procedure steps are divided into sections, which include when and where to get the vaccine, prioritization, communication and education, to list a few.

In summary, we have discussed a Joint Commission inspection, OSHA inspection issues, the reasons and steps for writing a policy and procedure. In addition, we have provided examples of policies and procedures.
This concludes Unit 3, Part II.