

Template: Risk Assessment for Pathogens of Epidemiological Concern

Attached is a risk assessment template that may be used by a facility to identify and stratify their pathogens of epidemiological concern (PEC) and targeted multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs). This template is appropriate for healthcare facilities such as hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

Instructions

Assign a risk score for each pathogen, ranging from 0 to 3, in each of the four assessment categories. Total the numbers in all the assessment categories to determine the numerical risk level for each pathogen (i.e., add or multiply the score for each section to calculate the numerical risk level). Rank the pathogens' total numerical risk levels from highest to lowest. Pathogens with the highest risk score should be the highest priority for developing and updating strategies for preventing transmission.

Additionally, a gap analysis may be used to assess a facility's preparedness for preventing transmission of pathogens. Please see the document *PEC Gap Analysis* as an example. Resources, including best practice guidance, for developing and improving strategies to prevent transmission of PEC are in the Resources section below.

Pathogen of Epidemiologic Concern (PEC)	The potential impact of transmission on patients, residents, and staff.				The probability of transmission occurring.				The organization's preparedness to prevent transmission.				Total Numerical Risk Level
	High (3)	Med (2)	Low (1)	None (0)	High (3)	Med (2)	Low (1)	None (0)	High (0)	Med (1)	Low (2)	None (3)	



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Definition of Categories

What is the potential impact of transmission of patient and staff: Determined by evaluating the potential for 1) patient or resident infection, illness, death, and need for medical intervention; 2) personnel infection, illness, staff shortage, and 3) impact on the organization’s ability to function, provide safe care, and remain open.

What is the probability of transmission occurring: Determined by evaluating the risk of the pathogen being identified and transmission occurring, including surveillance data, scope of services provided by the facility, prevalence in the community, prevalence in newly admitted patients/residents, environment of care conditions, patient/resident population, mode of transmission, and virulence of pathogen.

Organization’s preparedness to deal with this pathogen: Determined by considering policies and procedures already in place, staff experience, historical response to similar situations, and availability of, PPE, isolation rooms, staff, cleaning and disinfection agents, and equipment

References for Risk Assessment Template

K. Arias, M. Patrick, K Delahanty and S. Odachowski. ” Risk Assessment for Infection Surveillance, Prevention and Control Programs in Ambulatory Healthcare Settings” available online at: [ASC Risk Assessment Template.docx \(live.com\)](#)

[Risk Assessment Example 2.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Resources

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “Interim Guidance for a Public Health Response to Contain Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms” Containment Strategy Guidelines. Updated January 2019, available online at: [Health-Response-Contain-MDRO-H.pdf \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO) Management) Infection Control. Updated February 15, 2017 available online at: [MDRO Management | Guidelines Library | Infection Control | CDC](#)

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, “Guidance for Control of Targeted Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs)” Updated February 7, 2020, available online at [MDPHMDROToolkit_FINAL.pdf \(healthcentricadvisors.org\)](#)

Oregon Health Authority, ”Oregon Multidrug-Resistant Organism and Clostridioides Difficile Toolkit”, updated October 30, 2019, available online at: [MDRO TOOLKIT.pdf \(oregon.gov\)](#)

Washington State Hospital Association, “Washington State’s New Pathogen Law” Law Change: Hospitals Must Adopt Pathogen Policy By January 1, 2023. June 8, 2022. Available online at: [PowerPoint Presentation \(wsha.org\)](#)

Washington State Department of Health, “Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae Reporting and Investigation Guideline” Updated March 2022, available online at: [Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae Reporting and Investigation Guideline \(wa.gov\)](#)