

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation Subject: Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures Topic: 01.01 - Authority Statement for the Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology	01.01 – Policy 07.12.18 - Revised 1978 - Author
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01.01 - Authority Statement for the Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology

Purpose	To define the authority of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology.
Audience	All employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, outpatient surgical center, contract workers, volunteers, and students
Policy Program	There shall be an effective infection control program within the hospital and UTMB Clinics to identify, control and prevent infections which are potential hazards to all persons having contact with the hospital and clinics.
Responsibilities	<p>Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor nosocomial infection rates and communicate trends to appropriate departments. • Develop protocols designed to protect patients and employees from communicable diseases. • Organize and direct epidemiologic studies to determine the efficacy of established/proposed infection control techniques. • Investigate and develop control strategies for any infection outbreak (epidemic). • Develop infection control policies and procedures in conjunction with other departments for use throughout the hospital for services and for specific areas. • Review and comment on departmental policies and procedures which have infection control ramifications.
Authority Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The authority of the Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology will be as follows: • The Department Director or their designee may initiate and conduct any studies or institute any control measures when there is sufficient evidence of a danger to patients or personnel. • Environmental, patient or personnel cultures may be carried out as needed by the Department Director or their designee. • All hospital information or data pertaining to unusual or clustered nosocomial infections will be made available upon request to the Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology. • All hospital information or data pertaining to antimicrobial usage or bacterial resistance trends will be made available, upon request, to the Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology.
References	1. Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals, 2002 Edition; Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.