

Small Jobs, Big Risks: Infection Prevention Leading ICRA Oversight



DISCLAIMER

SMALL JOBS. BIG RISKS. REAL RESPONSIBILITY.

The guidelines and instructions presented here are not meant to supersede manufacturers' instructions, contractors' job site requirements, or healthcare facilities' policies or procedures nor are they meant to replace any current local, state, provincial, or federal safety rules or regulations.

It is essential that you always follow all current local, state, provincial, or federal safety rules, regulations, and guidelines whenever you perform any of these tasks.

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Objectives



Identify infection risks from routine maintenance work

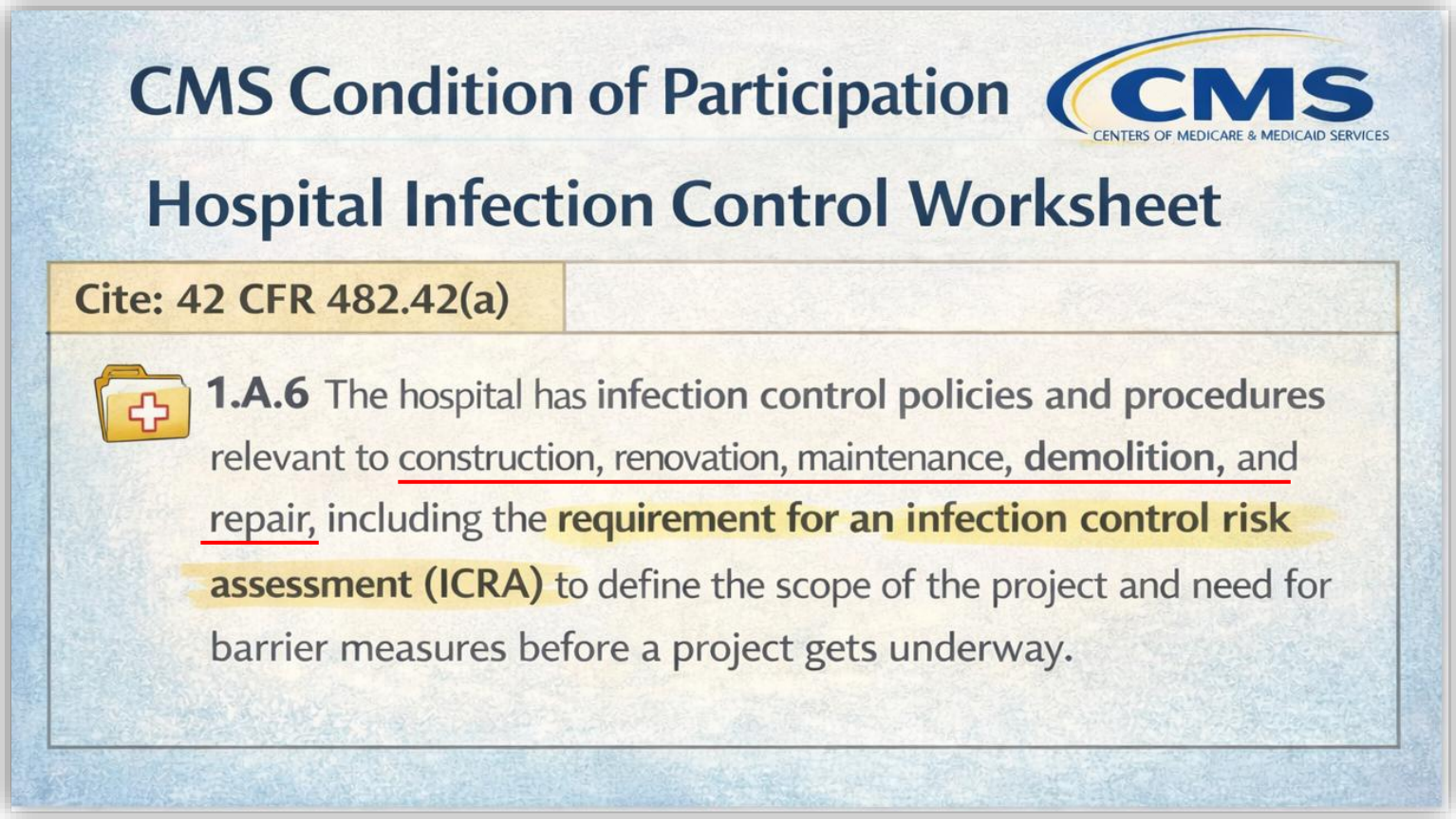


Apply the ICRA Process to small jobs from an IP perspective



Implement oversight strategies to ensure compliance and protect patients

But ICRA is just for Construction and Renovation…



Why Small Jobs Are Not “Low Risk”

Task Type	Routine Examples	Primary Infection Risk	ICRA Trigger	Typical Controls
 **Ceilings / Above-Ceiling**	• Ceiling tile replacement • Cable pulls • Inspections	Dust, fungal spores, hidden airflow pathways	**Above-ceiling access** in occupied areas	• Barriers • HEPA **vacuum** • Surface cleaning
 **Plumbing**	• Sink repair • Pipe access • Drain work	Aerosolized waterborne pathogens, biofilm	Work near **patient sinks** or immunocompromised **patients**	• Splash control • Cleaning • PPE
 **Walls / Penetrations**	• Drilling • Mounting equipment • Wall openings	**Dust release, contamination pathways**	Penetration into **patient-adjacent spaces**	• Dust control • Barriers • Cleaning
 **HVAC / Airflow**	• Vent removal • Filter changes • Diffuser adjustment	Altered **pressure**, airborne spread	Any change to **airflow** in patient areas	• Coordination with Facilities • Airflow verification
 **Electrical / Low Voltage**	• Outlet replacement • Data drops • Alarm wiring	Dust from drilling or ceiling access	“Quick” jobs in **patient care areas**	• Spot containment • HEPA **vacuum**
 **Flooring / Surfaces**	• Tile replacement • Grinding • Carpet removal	**Dust, debris, surface contamination**	Work while **space is occupied**	• Containment • Off-hour scheduling
 **Doors / Casework**	• Door frames • Cabinets • Handrails	Dust, high-touch contamination	Corridor or **patient room work**	• Barriers • Cleaning • Hand hygiene

When Should a Job Trigger ICRA?

- Any work that:
  - Disturbs dust or surfaces near patient areas
  - Impacts airflow or ventilation
  - Water work
  - Is adjacent to immunocompromised patients
- IP intervention is necessary even for those minor jobs



ICRA Refresher for Oversight

1. Identify patient risk group
2. Identify project type
3. Determine project classification (I-IV or I-V if using ICRA 2.0)
4. Assess surrounding areas
5. Specify controls
6. Document and validate



The Construction Control Roadmap



- Work order created
- Scope defined
- Location confirmed

- Contamination risk evaluated
- Controls determined
- Occupancy impact reviewed

- Controls verified
- Documentation complete
- Leadership sign-off

- Barrier checks
- Air quality verification
- Behavioral compliance
- Documentation updates



Establishing Infection Prevention's Role in "Small Jobs"

- Encourage the establishment of a process
  - Identify authority
  - Assess risk early
  - Classify work correctly (ICRA)
  - Recommend mitigation strategies
  - Monitor compliance
  - Provide training
  - Ensure access

Compliance Gap	IP Risk Mitigation Strategy
Work starts without IP notification	Require IP notification before any work impacting patient space or airflow
Incomplete or incorrect ICRA	Review and validate ICRA classification before approval
Barriers not installed or improperly used	Verify barrier setup prior to work and during spot checks
No HEPA vacuum or dust control	Require HEPA vacuum use for all dust-generating tasks
HVAC adjustments without coordination	Coordinate airflow changes with facilities and IP
Work performed during patient occupancy	Schedule work during low census or off-hours when possible
Lack of post-work cleaning	Require terminal or enhanced cleaning before space reopens
No post-work inspecton	Conduct IP sign-off before returning space to use
Poor documentation	Standardize documentation and retain ICRA records
Maintenance staff unaware of ICRA expectations	Ongoing education and quick-reference guidance

Oversight Strategies for ALL Jobs- Big and Small

1. Policies and Governance
   - Infection control policies that address construction, renovation, demolition, repair, and maintenance
   - Policies require ICRA before work begins
   - IP role and authority in ICRA review is clearly defined

2. ICRA Process
   - ICRA required for all work that impacts patient areas, airflow, or water regardless of scope
   - ICRA completed prior to work
   - IP review and approves ICRA



Oversight Strategies for ALL Jobs- Big and Small

3. Risk Controls and Implementation
   - Standardize barrier selection based on ICRA classification
   - Implement dust control measures
   - HVAC/Airflow changes coordinated with IP and Facilities
   - PPE defined and verified

4. Monitoring and Oversight
   - Address responsibility, frequency, and record-keeping for rounding or spot checks
   - How will non-compliance be addressed?
   - How will breached controls be addressed?



Oversight Strategies for ALL Jobs- Big and Small

5. Post-Work Verification
   - Terminal clean completed per policy
   - Barriers removed safely
   - Airflow restored and verified
   - Final sign off by IP

6. Documentation and Records
   - Retain ICRA records, monitoring, and audits
   - Post-work approval documented
   - Ensure easy retrieval of documents



Oversight Strategies for ALL Jobs- Big and Small

7. Staff Education & Competency
   - ICRA training
   - Quick reference tools

8. Preparation Questions
   - How do you know an ICRA is completed before work begins?
   - How are small maintenance tasks identified for IP review?
   - Who monitors compliance during the work?
   - How do you verify the area is safe before reopening?



QUESTIONS?

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

BUILDING SAFER SPACES TOGETHER!

Christa Mardaus

cmardaus@carpenterstraininginstitute.org

651.341.4418

Amanda Brown

abrown@carpenterstraininginstitute.org

651.308.0285

