



COMPARISON OF IPC AGED CARE GUIDELINES

Earlier this year, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) released its Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guide.

The Commission developed the Guide to support implementation of the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards and to supplement the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare for those providing care for older people.

ACIPC has received feedback from the industry raising concerns about the differences between the Aged Care IPC Guide, the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) Guidelines and the Australian IPC Guidelines. In response we have compiled a comparison resource to help in understanding the main differences.

Aged Care Infection Prevention & Control Guide (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, 2024)	Australasian Guidelines for Infection Prevention & Control in Healthcare (NHMRC, 2019)
4 transmission-based precautions terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact precautions• Respiratory precautions• Combined contact & respiratory precautions• Combined contact & respiratory (PFR) precautions	5 transmission-based precautions terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact precautions• Droplet precautions• Contact and Droplet Precautions• Airborne precautions• Contact and Airborne Precautions
PPE: Contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gown & gloves Respiratory precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respiratory - surgical mask, eye protection Combined contact & respiratory precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact and respiratory: surgical mask, eye protection, gloves & gown• Contact and respiratory with PFR: PFR, eye protection, gloves & gown PFR risk assessed	PPE: Contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gown & gloves Droplet precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surgical mask, eye protection Airborne precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N95/P2 mask, eye protection Combined contact & droplet precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surgical mask, eye protection, gloves & gown Combined contact & airborne precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N95/P2 mask, eye protection, gloves & gown
PPE signage: Contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact precaution poster Respiratory precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Droplet precautions poster Combined contact & respiratory precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact and droplet precautions poster Combined contact & respiratory (PFR) precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact and airborne precautions poster	PPE Signage: Contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact precaution poster Droplet precaution: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Droplet precautions poster Contact and droplet precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact and droplet precautions poster Airborne precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Airborne precautions poster Contact and airborne precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact and airborne precautions poster



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PFR use: <ul style="list-style-type: none">PFRs only required in high-risk situations - aerosol-generating procedure for an older person diagnosed or suspected of a respiratory infection- administration of a nebulised medicine and suctioning.In unusual and higher risk situations a PFR might be required IF advised by the IPC Lead following completion of a risk assessment.	PFR use: <ul style="list-style-type: none">N95/P2 required for all airborne transmission organisms
PFR fit testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fit testing and checking are recommended to support the use of PFRs.Refer to national guidelines	P2 Respirator fit testing <ul style="list-style-type: none">State/territory jurisdictional requirements and risk assessment.
Mask terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Surgical maskParticulate filter respirator = PFR (P2 / N95 addressed in relation to PFR)	Mask terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Surgical maskP2 / N95 respiratorsP2 respirators

The requirements of the IPC lead in RACF are very broad, enabling the role to be customised to the needs of the facility. The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission provide information on the role via the Infection Prevention and Control IPC Lead web page and the Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guide. Below is a comparison table between the two resources.

Aged Care IPC Leads role requirement comparisons:

	Infection Prevention and Control Leads. (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, 2022) Web resource: https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/infection-prevention-and-control-leads	Aged Care Infection Prevention & Control Guide (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, 2024)
RACF/provider requirements of an IPC lead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Member of the nursing staff, completed an identified IPC courseEmployed by and report to the providerMust work on site and be dedicated to a facilityIs the key infection control contactMay have a broader role in the facilityIPC leads for each RACF to be reported in the My Aged Care Service and Support Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">IPC system must be led by an IPC lead or an IPC teamHave an on-site IPC lead
IPC lead task descriptions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ongoing staff capability assessment and educationObserves, assesses and reports on IPC of the serviceRoutine IPC process oversight audit and reviewProvides IPC advice within the serviceHelps develop proceduresService-specific outbreak planning, preparation and readiness and on-site outbreak managementPrevent and respond to infectious diseases, including COVID-19 and influenza	<ul style="list-style-type: none">IPC-related training and education for the workforce and older peopleIdentifying gaps in IPC-related practice or training and identifying opportunities for continuous quality improvement and learningConducting IPC-related monitoring and auditsProviding updates to the workforce and older people on IPC issues and initiatives, as well as on relevant new local and national guidanceOverseeing antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) and IPC practices