



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the AHCA Infection Preventionist Specialized Training (IPCO)?

It is a specialized training for healthcare professionals who desire to serve as Infection Preventionists (IPs) as established in the CMS Reform of Requirements of Participation for Long Term Care Facilities (required as of November 2019). Through this program, individuals will be specially trained to effectively implement and manage an Infection Prevention and Control Program in a nursing center.

### Do you have to be an AHCA member to register for IPCO?

No. Both AHCA members and nonmembers are eligible to participate in the IPCO course.

### How much does it cost to take the IPCO training?

Registration fee: \$450 members, \$650 nonmembers. Payment and registration is completed by individual participant in the [IPCO](#) product in ahcancaLED.

### What's new and what has changed in IPCO version 2?

- *Updated regulatory requirements*
- *Increased from 23 to 25 ANCC contact hours*
- *22 hours of continuing education credit NAB approved for Nursing Home Administration and Residential Care/ Assisted Living Administration*
- *Length of time allowed to complete the training increased from 9 months to 12 months*

*Added course content:*

- *Multi-drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs) and Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP)*
- *Candida auris*
- *Water management program*
- *COVID-19*

BONUS CONTENT:

*All persons who register for the course receive access to additional non-CE approved bonus content. Topics include Interim COVID-19 Guidance, and courses on PPE and N-95 mask use.*

## **How can an individual register and pay for IPCO?**

The individual who wants to take the IPCO course must login to ahcancaLED and register for the course under their individual login. Payment will be made in ahcancaLED upon registration via credit card or E-check. Please be sure to have your credit card or banking information ready at checkout. Paying by credit card or E-check will grant automatic access to the course. Registrations for IPCO cannot be done by another person or under another person's ahcancaLED login.

*-- for a better web experience, please use Google Chrome Internet Browser and NOT Internet Explorer.*

## **How can an organization group register and pay for IPCO?**

Group purchase is available for groups of 25 or more. AHCA offers the following discount structure for groups: 25-49 registrations will receive \$25 off each registration. 50 or more registrations will receive \$75 off each registration.

After full payment is made for group purchase of IPCO, the designated individuals who the IPCO registration payment was made for, will be provided with a unique group code for their group which will translate to \$0 due upon registration (because full payment has already been received). One code will be provided for each group with a max allowance of times that the code can be used based on the group's payment.

Each individual will need to login to the AHCA website to access ahcancaLED and then complete their own registration using the group code.

## **Can I get a refund on the IPCO product if I no longer want to take the course?**

No refunds are issued for IPCO.

## **Can my IPCO registration be transferred to a colleague?**

IPCO registrations cannot be transferred. The individual that registers for the course is the only one that has access to it.

## **Who is eligible to take this training?**

Anyone can take this training. The AHCA Infection Preventionist Specialized Training does not require a particular healthcare license.

Please note, there are specific requirements for the individual(s) who will serve as Infection Preventionist(s). CMS requirements for a designated Infection Preventionist state:

483.80 (b) Infection preventionist. The facility must designate one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) (IPs) who are responsible for the facility's IPCP. The IP must:

- (1) Have primary professional training in nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology, or other related field;
- (2) Be qualified by education, training, experience or certification;
- (3) Work at least part-time at the facility; and
- (4) Have completed specialized training in infection prevention and control.

The online course is also approved for 22 NAB CEUs for Administrators. AHCA/NCAL recognizes Administrators will not serve as designated Infection Preventionists but we recommend that Administrators consider taking the course to gain a deeper understanding of infection prevention and control in the overall operation of a nursing facility as this is a high target area for survey and liability.

### **What are the requirements to successfully complete IPCO?**

Participate in each module and successfully complete quizzes throughout the course and final test (achieve at least 80% correct each time)

Modules 1-7 will have quizzes with 5 questions (4 of 5 questions must be accurately completed) except for module 3 which will have 10 questions (8 of 10 questions must be accurately completed).

The final test after Module 9 will have 20 questions (16 of 20 questions must be accurately completed)

Each module quiz may be attempted three times before the participant is required to repeat the module and then reattempt answering questions.

Complete course evaluation after each module and at the end of the course.

Course completion must occur within 12 months of the date the registrant starts the first required component of the program; which is the copyright agreement.(not registration date)

### **How long does it take on average to complete the IPCO course?**

The learning time of all modules, review of additional resources, time to complete the modules and final course evaluations and quizzes/final test accounts for 25 hours.

Participants are encouraged to spread out the course over time in an organized manner - such as scheduling module reviews on various dates/times when they can focus their attention to it. The course could be completed within a week or over several months based on how the individual would like to approach the program.

### **Are Contact Hours awarded for IPCO?**

Yes, 25 ANCC contact hours and 22 hours of continuing education credit are NAB approved for Nursing Home Administration and Residential Care/ Assisted Living Administration are available for completion of this program. This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation

requirements and policies of the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC) through the joint providership of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing Continuing Nursing Education (UNMC CON CNE) (provider) and American Health Care Association.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing Continuing Nursing Education is accredited with distinction as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

### **What does a participant get when they complete the IPCO course?**

Participants receive two certificates at the completion of IPCO:

- UNMC CON CNE will provide a certificate awarding 25 ANCC contact hours to participants who successfully achieve the completion requirements.
- 22 hours of continuing education credit are NAB approved for Nursing Home Administration and Residential Care/ Assisted Living Administration
- Specialized Training Completion certificate from AHCA, valid for 3 years.

### **How long do the certificates last?**

The CE certificates do not expire. The Specialized Training Completion certificate expires after 3 years from issue date.

### **How can someone renew their IPCO certificate?**

Renewal may occur by the options below:

Option 1: Registering for a competency exam requiring a grade of 80% or above to successfully receive certificate of renewal. This option is only available to individuals who have previously successfully completed the full IPCO course and are seeking renewal.

Option 2: Registering for the IPCO course and completing the course requirements as outlined above.

### **Is IPCO a certification?**

No, IPCO is a specialized training program with a certificate upon successful completion.

### **Does IPCO meet CMS requirements?**

Yes, IPCO meets the expectations CMS has outlined on the required components of the specialized training.

CMS is not endorsing any particular training, rather CMS is focused on the content and intensity/duration of what will meet the specialized training requirement. Based on information AHCA received from CMS, the IPCO training meets both the content and intensity/duration of CMS requirements.

## **Can I print the presentation slides and how can I access the resources within the module?**

Each module contains a *resource guide* which includes a copy of the presentation and any necessary supporting documents discussed within the module. *This resource guide can be found at the top right corner within each module.*

## **I am having technical difficulties with IPCO, can you help?**

Please email us at [educate@ahca.org](mailto:educate@ahca.org).

## **Where can I get more information on IPCO?**

For more information, visit the [AHCA Infection Preventionist Specialized Training \(IPCO\)](#) product page or email [educate@ahca.org](mailto:educate@ahca.org).