

E074

2-hour Educational Workshop

Infection prevention and control measures in Europe 2020

Bridging the gap: infection prevention as the common trunk between clinical microbiology and infectious disease?

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In the era of patients' safety and antimicrobial resistance, infection prevention within healthcare centres must be a priority for healthcare managers. Because of the variety and complexity of activities related to infection control, a multidisciplinary approach involving at least infection control nurses, preventive medicine/epidemiology specialists, infectious diseases specialists (IDs) and clinical microbiologists (CMs) is needed; participation of other specialists from key services is also important. IDs and CMs have a central role in the control of multidrug-resistant pathogens within healthcare facilities. For the detection of colonised or infected patients, rapid enough and efficient microbiological techniques and expertise are crucial. CMs should therefore participate in all decisions related to active screening. Due to their clinical experience and daily contact with staff in the wards, IDs can easily integrate education activities, reinforcement of basic infection control measures, feedback and treatment recommendations. The need for additional investigation and measures in specific epidemiologic situations must be decided by the multidisciplinary team. However, available resources, communication procedures and activities performed by different specialists in infection control are very heterogeneous across countries and even hospitals. Standardising operating procedures considering the competencies of each member of the infection control team would help to improve the activities. Examples for such procedures are presented and discussed.