



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.  
Commissioner

Wendy E. Saunders  
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Dear Infection Control Course Provider:

As you may be aware, on August 5, 2008, Governor Paterson signed his Patient Safety Bill into law. This bill revises the existing Infection Control Training law, including requirements to update the New York State Infection Control Training Syllabus (the "Syllabus"). The legislation stipulates that on or before September 1, 2008, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) including the Patient Safety Center in consultation with the State Council on Graduate medical Education (COGME):

"...review and revise the content of the coursework or training in infection control practices as necessary to ensure that such content: (i) reflects the current infection control practices and standards accepted and promoted by the medical and scientific communities; (ii) focuses particular attention on instruction in standards of practice for which compliance is suboptimal based on the department's experience; and (iii) emphasizes the application of infection control standards and practices in outpatient and ambulatory settings."

(Title 2-E §239 available at <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugetf.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS>)

Investigations by the NYSDOH have revealed infection control practices related to injection safety and medical equipment reprocessing as areas in which compliance has been suboptimal. Therefore, Element III (*Use of Engineering and Work Practice Controls to Reduce the Opportunity for Patient and Healthcare Worker Exposure to Potentially Infectious Material in All Healthcare Settings*) and Element V (*Creation and Maintenance of a Safe Environment for Patient Care in All Healthcare Settings through Application of Infection Control Principles and Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization*) have been updated to reflect current standards.

Attached, please find the update to Elements III and V of the Syllabus. These updated Elements can also be found on the NYSDOH website at:

[http://www.health.state.ny.us/professionals/diseases/reporting/communicable/infection/hcp\\_training.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/professionals/diseases/reporting/communicable/infection/hcp_training.htm).  
**Please incorporate these changes into your course curriculum immediately.**

The law requires NYSDOH to periodically review the syllabus and make any needed changes to reflect new medical knowledge, so further updates may occur in the future. Additionally, guidance pertaining to the other changes to infection control training mandated by the Patient Safety Bill is being prepared. You will be notified when the updates and guidance are available on the NYSDOH website.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Epidemiology Program by email ([icp@health.state.ny.us](mailto:icp@health.state.ny.us)) or by phone (518-473-4439).

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Attachment: NYS Infection Control Training Syllabus Elements III and V, Updated