# How does The Joint Commission survey infection control in facilities?

### THE DIRECT ANSWER

The Joint Commission surveys infection control by tracing real infection risks through your facility : isolation room practices, hand hygiene compliance, sterilization and high-level disinfection, construction-related infection risks (ICRA), and water management. Surveyors observe practice, interview staff, and review surveillance data — and under the 2026 National Performance Goals, infection prevention and control is NPG 5 , a standalone hospital goal.

## WHAT SURVEYORS ACTUALLY DO

- Observe hand hygiene, PPE use, and isolation precautions in real time on units — including whether staff can explain the precautions for the patient in front of them.
- Trace the reprocessing pathway: from dirty instrument to sterile storage, checking cleaning, high-level disinfection or sterilization, and storage practices.
- Inspect the physical environment's infection controls: negative-pressure room monitoring, construction barriers and ICRA compliance on active projects, water management program implementation.
- Review surveillance data, outbreak investigation records, and antibiotic stewardship documentation.

## THE FACILITIES OVERLAP MOST TEAMS MISS

- Infection control surveys are not just the IP department's problem. Surveyors connect clinical practice to your systems constantly: the isolation room whose pressure monitor hasn't been calibrated, the construction zone without an ICRA permit, the eyewash station with no weekly flush log.

## FIELD QUESTION

**What is NPG 5?**

National Performance Goal 5 (effective January 2026): "The hospital prioritizes infection prevention and control." It consolidated the former NPSG infection-control requirements under Accreditation 360.

**From Healthcare Facility Hub - free, like everything on the site. The full article is at the link below.**

Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.