

## WHO multimodal improvement strategy

**Multimodal implementation strategies are a core component of effective infection prevention and control (IPC) programmes according to the WHO Guidelines on Core Components of IPC programmes at the National and Acute Health Care Facility Level.**

The guidelines' **recommendation 5** states that IPC activities using multimodal strategies should be implemented to improve practices and reduce HAI and AMR. In practice, this means the use of multiple approaches that in combination will contribute to influencing the behaviour of the target audience (usually health care workers) towards the necessary improvements that will impact on patient outcome and contribute to organizational culture change. Implementation of IPC multimodal strategies needs to be linked with the aims and initiatives of quality improvement programmes and accreditation bodies both at the national and facility levels.

### Five key elements to focus on when improving IPC

The multimodal strategy consists of several elements (3 or more; usually 5) implemented in an integrated way to guide action and provide a clear focus for the implementer.

Targeting only ONE area (i.e. unimodal), is highly likely to result in failure. All five areas should be considered, and necessary action taken, based on the local context and situation informed by periodic assessments.

WHO identifies five elements for IPC multimodal strategies in a health care context:

- 1 the system change** needed to enable IPC practices, including infrastructure, equipment, supplies and other resources;
- 2 training and education** to improve health worker knowledge;
- 3 monitoring and feedback** to assess the problem, drive appropriate change and document practice improvement;
- 4 reminders and communications** to promote the desired actions, at the right time, including campaigns;
- 5 a culture of safety** to facilitate an organizational climate that values the intervention, with a focus on involvement of senior managers, champions or role models.

In other words, the **WHO multimodal improvement strategy addresses these five areas:**

