# Article information:

Learning from Nursing Home Infection Prevention and Control Citations During the COVID-19 Pandemic | Journal of Gerontological Nursing
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# Article summary:

1. Effective infection prevention and control (IPC) practices are critical in nursing homes to minimize the devastating effects of COVID-19 on older adults.

2. Adherence to personal protective equipment (PPE) and mask use, appropriate transmission-based precautions, and hand hygiene were the most common reasons for COVID-19–related F880 citations in nursing homes during the pandemic.

3. Nursing management and infection preventionists can use these results to ensure that operational mechanisms, staff training, and adherence monitoring efforts effectively address the areas most associated with COVID-19 IPC noncompliance.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Learning from Nursing Home Infection Prevention and Control Citations During the COVID-19 Pandemic" provides valuable insights into the most common reasons for noncompliance with infection prevention and control (IPC) requirements in nursing homes during the pandemic. The authors analyzed data from Focused Infection Control (FIC) surveys conducted by state survey agencies on behalf of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) between March 23 and October 31, 2020. They identified 641 citations related to IPC deficiencies that placed residents at risk of serious injury or death, including those associated with COVID-19 transmission.

The study found that adherence to personal protective equipment (PPE) and mask use, appropriate transmission-based precautions, and hand hygiene were the most common reasons for COVID-19–related F880 citations. The authors also highlighted more specific staff practices and other factors leading to a citation. They suggested that nursing management and infection preventionists could use these results to help ensure that operational mechanisms, staff training, and adherence monitoring efforts effectively address the areas most associated with COVID-19 IPC noncompliance.

One potential bias in this article is its focus on F880 citations related to COVID-19 during a specific period of time. While this approach provides useful information about IPC deficiencies during the pandemic, it may not reflect broader trends or issues in nursing home care. For example, F880 was already the most frequently cited area before the pandemic, indicating longstanding challenges in meeting minimum federal standards for IPC in nursing homes.

Another potential bias is the authors' reliance on CMS data to identify citation reasons without independent verification or validation. While CMS oversight is an important regulatory mechanism for ensuring quality care in nursing homes, it is not immune to errors or biases. Moreover, CMS data may not capture all relevant information about IPC deficiencies or their causes.

The article does not explore counterarguments or alternative perspectives on IPC compliance in nursing homes during the pandemic. For example, some stakeholders may argue that limited PPE supply or staffing shortages contributed to noncompliance with IPC requirements beyond nursing home control. Others may question whether CMS enforcement actions are effective at improving IPC practices or whether they create unintended consequences such as increased administrative burden or reduced access to care.

Overall, this article provides a useful overview of common reasons for noncompliance with IPC requirements in nursing homes during the pandemic based on CMS data analysis. However, readers should be aware of potential biases and limitations in this approach and consider additional sources of information when evaluating IPC compliance issues in nursing homes.

# Topics for further research:

* Nursing home IPC compliance challenges beyond the COVID-19 pandemic
* Factors contributing to noncompliance with IPC requirements in nursing homes
* Effectiveness of CMS enforcement actions on IPC practices in nursing homes
* Impact of limited PPE supply and staffing shortages on IPC compliance in nursing homes
* Alternative perspectives on IPC compliance in nursing homes during the pandemic
* Longstanding challenges in meeting federal standards for IPC in nursing homes

# Report location:

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