



6 Steps to Evaluate an INFECTION CONTROL BREACH

01

› Identify the infection control breach.

- › Review practices that may have led to the breach.
- › Interview staff involved.
- › Review records of disinfection procedures.

02

› Gather additional data.

- › Determine the time frame of breach.
- › Determine patients that may have been exposed.

03

› Notify and involve key stakeholders:

- › Infection control professionals.
- › Risk management.
- › Local and state health departments.
- › Affected healthcare providers.
- › Licensing or other regulatory agencies, if appropriate.

04

› Perform a qualitative assessment.

- › If possible, classify breach as category A or B:
 - › Category A involves a gross error or demonstrated high-risk practice.
 - › Category B involves a breach with lower likelihood of blood exposure.

05

› Decide on patient notification and testing.

- › If category A, patient notification and testing is warranted.
- › If category B, consider the following:
 - › Potential risk of transmission.
 - › Public concern.
 - › Duty to warn vs. harm of notification.

06

› Handle communication and logistical issues.

- › Develop communication materials.
- › Consider post-exposure prophylaxis if appropriate.
- › Conduct testing, obtain consent, and perform counseling.
- › Address media and legal issues.