



# Are you ready for your IPC interview?

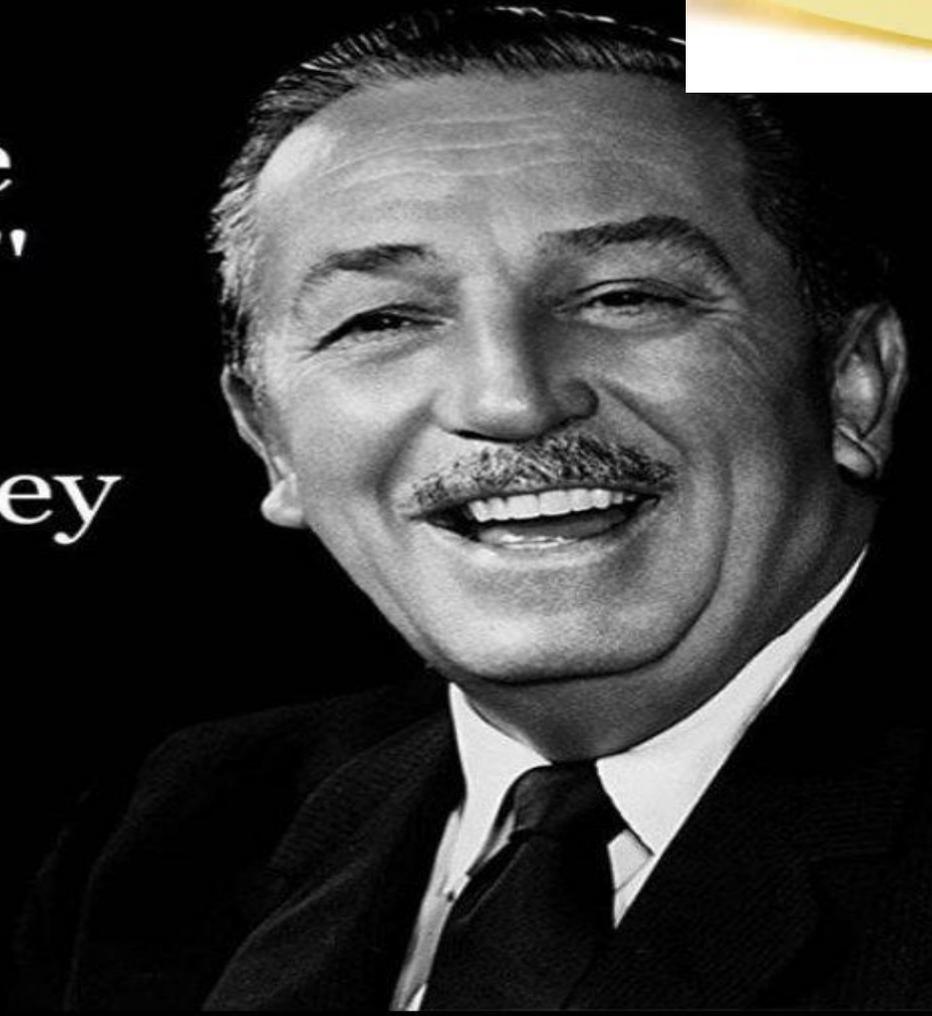
**Dr . Nadia Elsheshtawy**  
**Professor of Medical Microbiology and Immunology**  
**Faculty of Medicine**  
**Ain Shams University**  
**IFBA Certified**  
**ESIC Member**

# SOMETHING TO REMEMBER:



"All of our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

-Walt Disney

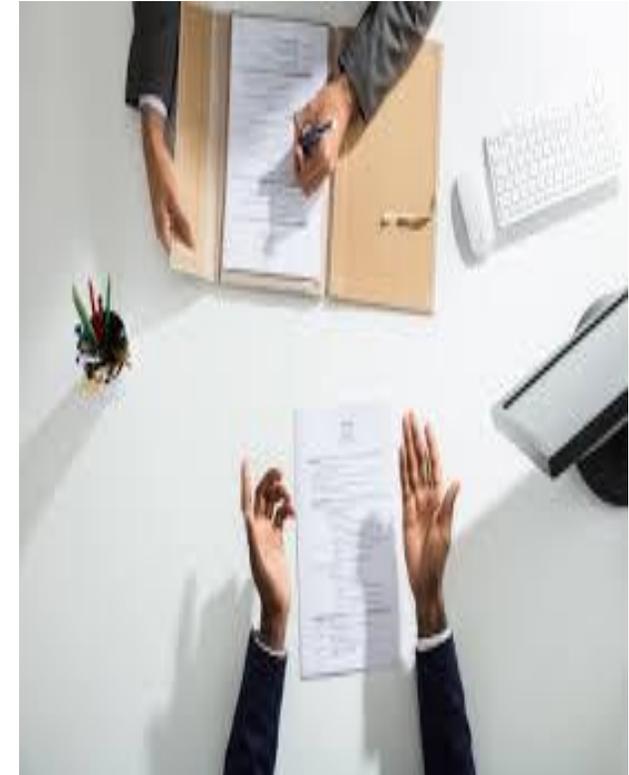


الصنعة اللي مكنتش فيها  
صبي.. مينفعش تبقى فيها  
معلم

# What is an Interview?

---

- The word interview comes from Latin and middle French words meaning to “see between” .
- Interview = A meeting with an objective
- Employer’s objective is to find the best person for the job
- Employer: reviews candidate’s experience and abilities
- **Can you do the job? (skills, abilities, qualifications)**
- **Will you do the job? (interest, attitude & motivation)**
- **How will you fit into the organisation? (personality)**



# THE INTERVIEW PROCESS



PRE-  
INTERVIEW



5

INTERVIEW



POST-  
INTERVIEW

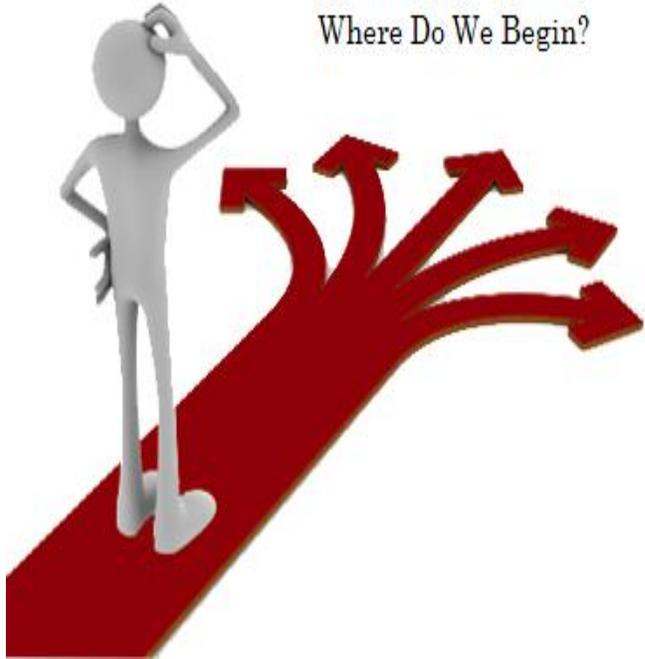
# Types of Interviews

- Basic/traditional interview
- Telephone interview
- Group interview
- Interview during a meal or social occasion
- Serial interview



# INTERVIEW PREP

Where Do We Begin?



1



**DRESS  
APPROPRIATELY**

2



**ARRIVE IN  
GOOD TIME**

3



**BODY  
LANGUAGE**

4



**EXPECT THE  
UNEXPECTED**

5



**ASK  
QUESTIONS**

# What --- should I do?

08-04-2025

Nadia Elsheshtawy

IPC is my passion

8



# PRE-INTERVIEW



# RESEARCH

## BACKGROUND

- Origins-founding principles & mission and vision of the Hospital?

## MACRO (THE BIG PICTURE)

- How well is the Hospital doing in its respective industry?

## MICRO (MORE SPECIFIC)

- Number of Beds
- Number of Patients visiting the Hospital
- Different specialities and Departments present

A screenshot of a Google search result for the company "Google". At the top right, there is a badge that says "BEST PLACES TO WORK 2020". Below the company name "Google", there is a "Hiring Surge" indicator. On the right side, there is a link that says "Is this your company?". Below these elements, there are several statistics: "13k Reviews", "2.5k Jobs", "26k Salaries", "11k Interviews", "4.1k Benefits", and "375 Photos". At the bottom right, there are two buttons: "Follow · 1M" and "+ Add a Review".

Google	Hiring Surge	Is this your company?
13k Reviews	2.5k Jobs	26k Salaries
11k Interviews	4.1k Benefits	375 Photos
Follow · 1M	+ Add a Review	

# PRE-INTERVIEW

- Review the job description and be able to match your experience and education with the duties of the position
- Prepare a 1 to 2 minute script about yourself
- Make sure you have the appropriate interview attire



# FIRST IMPRESSION SKILLS: Dress for Success!

## الإتطباع الأول يدوم

- More presentable and professional.
- When you are dressed your best, you tend to feel more confident.

### CUT

- Shirts and attire should be modest
- No slits in the front of skirts/dresses

### PRINT

- Minimal print to solid (no print) is best

### COLOR

- Dark Blue
- Black
- Gray



# Tips for Successful Interviewing

- Interviewing is a two-way process
- **Never give “yes” or “no”** answers
- Listen carefully and react
- Use specific examples to make your case
- Be positive!
- Be prepared for the unexpected
- Think like an **employer**
- **Don’t criticize past employers or co-workers**
- Maintain professionalism, even if the employer does not
- Be aware of body language
- Be well-groomed

“SUCCESS NEEDS STRATEGIES

# Body language: do's and don'ts



DO



DON'T

## DO

- Firm handshake
- Eye contact
- Smile!
- Open posture
- Relaxed, but alert
- Look neat & professional
- Adopt appropriate dress code
- Listen actively – ‘head nods’
- Sit in the right seat

## DON'T

- Limp/clammy handshake
- Bring in carrier bags/clutter
- Wear jeans
- Look down
- Flop into chair
- Wave arms
- Stare out of window
- Shake with nerves
- Adopt a threatening posture

# Rehearsal Time

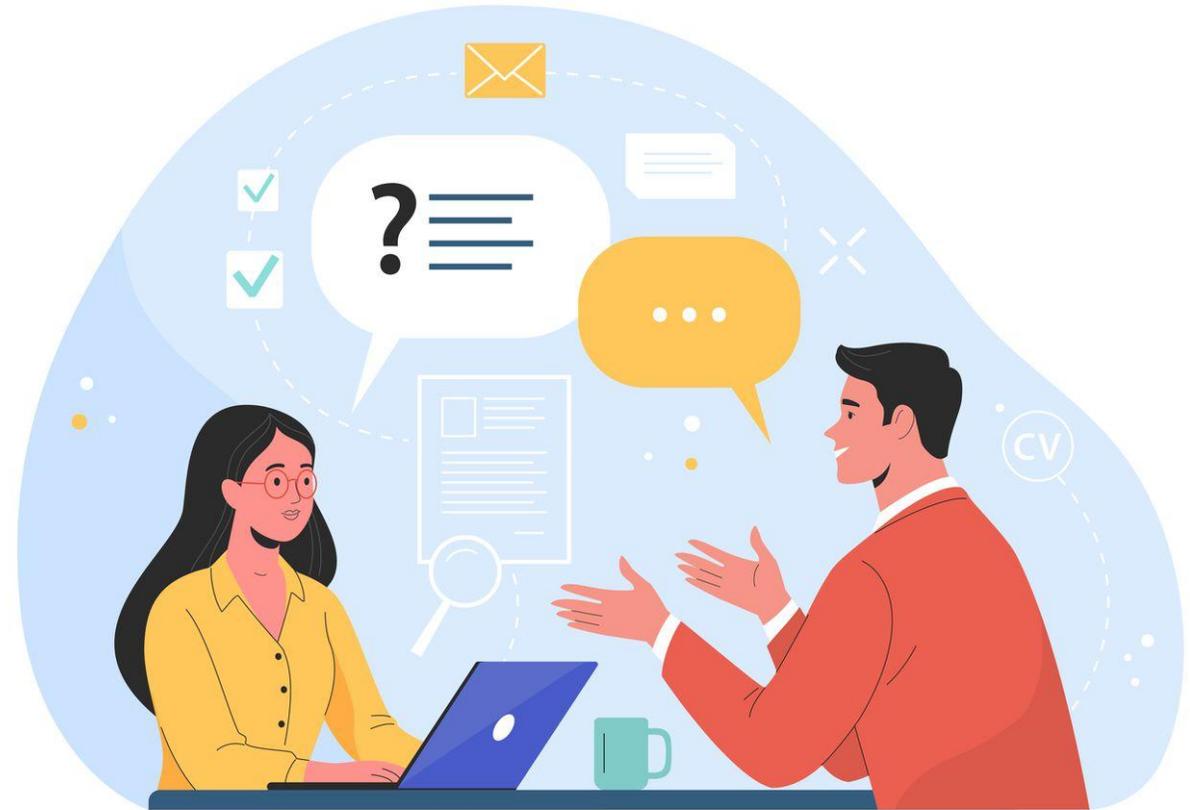
Practicing for the interview will improve your performance. Try the following:

- Practice your telephone skills.
- Interview with a friend.
- Use a mirror.
- Use a tape recorder.
- Prepare answers to typical questions.



# Interview scenario

---



# 1-Introduction:

Briefly introduce yourself, your background, and your interest in infection prevention.



# How to Answer the "TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF" Question

## EDUCATION

- **Begin with your school and collage**
- **How you became interested in the field.**
- **Mention membership/s and organizations**

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Discuss your current position.**
- **Mention past jobs.**
- **Focus on transferable skills that would be valuable.**

## KEY STRENGTHS

- **Based on your research of the organization, mention two key strengths of yours that match the requirements of the organization.**

## FUTURE

- **End with why you are interested in working for the organization.**
- **State that you look forward to learning more about how you might be able to contribute your skills, talents, and experience in the future.**

# The five most important factors interviewers considered when hiring

- Work experience (36%)
- First impressions of the candidate (24%)
- Education (12%)
- Professional qualifications (10%)
- References (9%)



## 2-Role and Responsibilities:

- Provide an overview of the role of an Infection Preventionist, including their key responsibilities and the importance of their work in healthcare settings.



## 3- Knowledge and Skills:

- Discuss the specific knowledge and skills required for an Infection Preventionist, such as understanding infectious diseases, infection control practices, surveillance, and outbreak management.



## 4-Regulatory Guidelines:

- Highlight the regulatory guidelines and standards that Infection Preventionists must adhere to, such as those from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO).



## 5-Data Analysis and Reporting:

- Data Analysis and Reporting: Emphasize the importance of data analysis and reporting in infection prevention, including the use of surveillance systems, data interpretation, and communication of findings to stakeholders.



## **6-Collaborative Approach:**

- Discuss the need for collaboration and teamwork in infection prevention, as Infection Preventionists often work closely with healthcare providers, administrators, and other departments.



## 7-Professional Development:

- Share your commitment to ongoing professional development, such as attending conferences, obtaining certifications, and **staying updated** with the latest research and best practices in infection prevention.



# 8-Case Scenarios:

---

- Prepare a few case scenarios or hypothetical situations related to infection control and prevention, and discuss how you would approach and handle them.



# 9-Questions for the Interviewer:

---

- Prepare some thoughtful questions to ask the interviewer about their organization's infection prevention strategies, challenges, and future goals.



# What are the common questions?



# How to answer?



# What is your experience with developing and implementing infection control protocols?

- The interviewer wants to know that you have the experience and knowledge necessary to do the job.

## How to Answer:

- *“I have a lot of experience in **developing and implementing** infection control protocols. I have taken **multiple courses** on the subject, including one from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*
- *In my **previous role** as an Infection Control specialist, I was responsible for developing and implementing protocols for our hospital.*



## Describe a time when you had to investigate an outbreak of a communicable disease in a healthcare setting?

- The interviewer wants to know how the candidate would approach a challenging situation, including their ability to identify the source of the outbreak, formulate a plan of action.

### How to Answer:

- *“I was recently part of a team that investigated an outbreak of **MRSA** at a long-term care facility. We identified the source of the outbreak and developed infection control protocols to prevent further spread.*
- *I would **consult other departments**, such as housekeeping and nursing, to ensure that all necessary precautions are taken.*
- *Then I would **develop a plan** would include measures to **monitor** hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection of the area, and increased surveillance of the area.*



# How do you ensure that all staff members are following the proper infection prevention protocols?

- The interviewer wants to know how you would motivate staff, how you would handle any violations, and how you would ensure that protocols are being followed.

## How to Answer:

- I would **first educate and train** staff on the protocols through clear communication and hands-on training.
- Then, I would **monitor their adherence** by collecting data and conducting regular audits to identify any areas for improvement.
- I would provide **feedback** when necessary to reinforce positive behaviors and **motivate** staff to follow the protocols.



# What strategies do you use to educate patients and their families about infection prevention measures?

- The interviewer will ask this question to understand if you have the necessary skills to educate patients and their families about infection prevention measures.

## How to Answer:

- *I use several **different strategies** when educating patients and their families about infection prevention measures.*
- *I always start by explaining the **basics of how infections spread** and the importance of proper hygiene. I then provide **visual aids** such as diagrams and charts to illustrate complex concepts in an easy-to-understand way.*
- *I provide **examples of best practices** for preventing infections and discuss why it is important to adhere to those measures.*



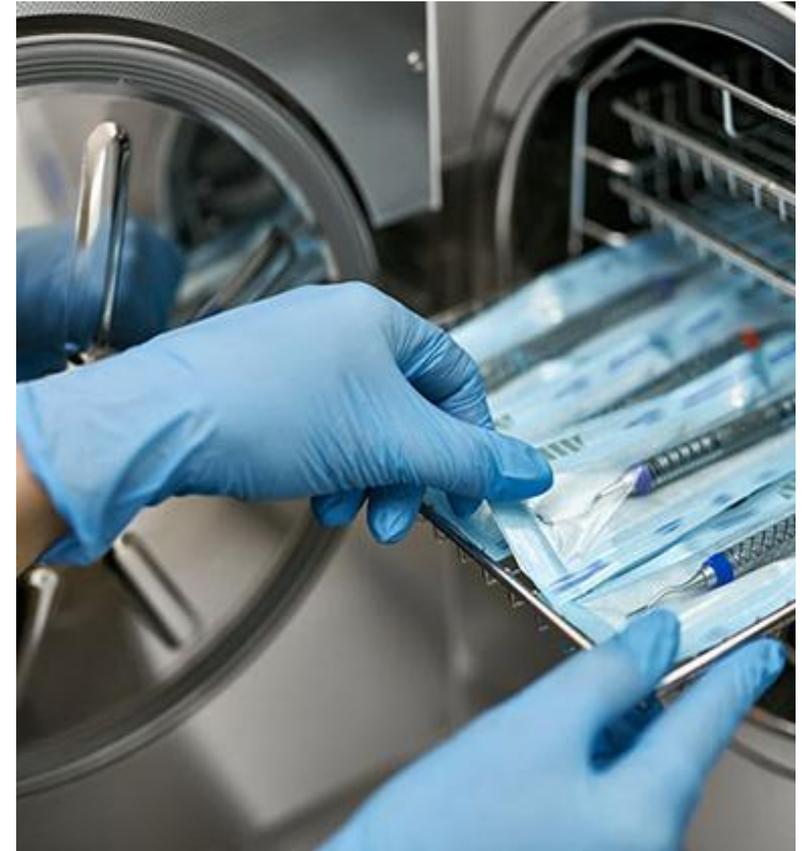
***building trust***

# What steps do you take to ensure that medical equipment is properly sterilized before being reused?

- The interviewer wants to know if you understand the importance of sterilization and if you know the best practices for ensuring that equipment is properly sterilized before being reused.

## How to Answer:

- *I start by identifying and **isolating any contaminated items**.*
- *Follow the appropriate **cleaning protocols** and use appropriate disinfectants and detergents to clean all surfaces.*
- *Follow the appropriate **Sterilization process** through revising all the indicators.*



# Have you ever conducted an audit of a facility's infection prevention practices?

- The interviewer wants understand your experience in conducting audits and your ability to take away meaningful insights from the process.

## How to Answer:

- *I have conducted several audits of healthcare facilities' infection prevention practices.*
- *In my most recent audit, I conducted a **comprehensive review of the facility's policies and procedures, interviewed staff members, and observed the environment to identify any potential risks.***
- *I was able to identify a **number of gaps** in the facility's infection prevention practices .*
- *I developed an **action plan** with specific steps to ensure that these changes were implemented in a timely manner*



# Do you have any experience with using data analytics to track trends in infection rates?

- An interviewer want to know that you have the skills and experience necessary to use data to inform your decisions and strategies.

## How to Answer:

- *I have extensive experience in using **data analytics** to track and monitor trends in infection rates.*
- *I have used a variety of **software and tools**, to analyze data sets from various sources.*
- *I have been successful in **identifying trends and patterns** in infection rates, which have enabled me to intervene quickly and effectively .*



# How do you handle situations where staff members are not compliant with infection control policies?

- The interviewer wants to know that you understand the importance of compliance and can handle situations when staff members are not following the rules.

## How to Answer:

- *My first step would be to **educate them on the importance of following protocols.***
- *I would provide additional training .*
- *I would also **document any non-compliance incidents** and report them to the appropriate authorities.*



# How do you stay informed about new developments in the field of infection prevention?

- An interviewer wants to know that you are aware of the latest developments and that you are actively seeking out new information.

## How to Answer:

- *I stay informed about new developments by reading professional journals and publications, **attending conferences and seminars**, taking **online courses**, and attending networking events.*
- *I also follow **discussions on social media** and other forums related to infection prevention.*



# Describe your experience in creating educational materials on infection prevention ?

- The interviewer is looking to see if you have experience in creating and disseminating educational materials on IPC topics.

## How to Answer:

- *I have experience in creating **educational materials** like brochures, handouts, webinars, and slideshows.*
- *I have worked closely with healthcare workers to ensure that the materials are **tailored to their needs and easy to understand**.*
- *I have also conducted surveys and focus groups to **evaluate the effectiveness of the materials** and make any necessary changes.*

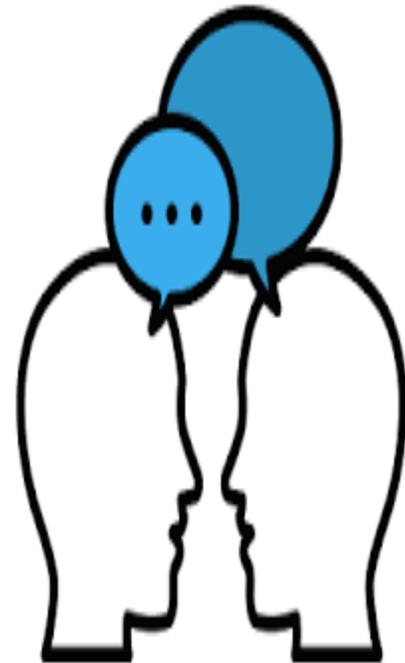


# What strategies do you use to communicate effectively with other healthcare professionals about infection prevention?

- The interviewer is looking to see if you are able to communicate effectively with a variety of healthcare professionals

## How to Answer:

- *I've found that the best way to communicate is to start by **listening**. It's important to understand their perspective and any **potential concerns** they may have.*
- *I make sure to use **language** that they **understand** and can relate to.*
- *I create a dialogue that is both productive and educational.*
- *I've also had success using **visuals and charts** to help illustrate my points and make complex topics easier to understand.*



# What strategies do you use to motivate staff members to follow infection prevention protocols?

- The interviewer is looking for creative strategies you have used in the past to motivate staff to follow protocols

## How to Answer:

- *I have used a variety of strategies to encourage staff compliance with protocols. I have **offered incentives and rewards** for following protocols*
- *I held regular **training sessions and seminars** to educate staff*
- *I helped staff to **feel comfortable asking questions** and sharing any concerns they may have.*
- *I record videos with the **team heroes**.*



# What challenges have you faced while working as an infection preventionist?



- The interviewer is looking for the difficulties of the job and how you have dealt with them and the types of challenges you have faced, and how you overcame them.

## How to Answer:

- *One of the most difficult has been **creating and implementing new protocols** and procedures to ensure that everyone is properly trained and informed of the new protocols.*
- *I have also implemented a variety of **monitoring systems**, such as hand hygiene audits and environmental cleaning audits, to ensure that all safety standards are being met.*
- *I faced some challenges in **training Doctors**.*
- *I am proud to say that I have been successful in **overcoming these challenges** .*

# How do you assess the effectiveness of an infection prevention program?

---

- The interviewer wants to understand how you measure the success of an infection prevention program, how you track data and trends, and how you adapt programs as needed.

## How to Answer:

- I would look at both **quantitative and qualitative data**.
- Quantitatively, I would track **infection rates** and patient outcomes, **compliance** with safety protocols.
- Qualitatively, I would look at **feedback from staff** and patients, as well as any complaints or concerns.
- I would also **track trends** in the data over time to identify any **areas that need improvement**



# If a patient contracted an infection that you had never seen before, how would you research and respond to the situation?



- Interviewers want to understand your critical thinking skills and how you would respond to a unique situation.

## How to Answer:

- *The first step is to research for this infection in different platforms.*
- *I would start by **consulting medical literature and resources** such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, which provides up-to-date information on infectious diseases.*
- *I would also **consult colleagues** in the field who may have experience with similar ones.*
- *Once I had gathered enough information about the infection, I would then develop an **action plan**.*
- *Finally, I would **monitor the situation** closely to ensure that the infection was contained.*

# When performing your daily rounds, how do you track the progress of patients who are infected?

- The interviewer wants to assess your ability to manage the progress of patients through tracking patient data, as their symptoms and Lab findings.

## How to Answer:

- *I use specified **check lists** during my daily rounds.*
- *I use an **electronic medical record system** that allows me to track all patients' information.*
- *Follow up of **surveillance sheets**.*
- *I have access to **lab results**.*
- *I revise **medical files** even after patient's discharge.*



# What would you do if you suspected that a member of your staff was unknowingly transmitting an infection to patients?



- The interviewer wants to assess your leadership skills and ability to make tough decisions.

## How to Answer:

- *First, I would **investigate the situation** thoroughly and determine if there is any evidence or data to support my suspicions.*
- *I would then develop a plan of action like additional training for the staff member.*
- *I would help him to take **sick leave according to Staff health policy.***

# When performing risk assessments, are you comfortable using mathematical equations and interpreting the results?

- The interviewer wants to know if you are familiar with the different equations and their calculation and how to interpret these results.

## How to Answer:

- *I understand the importance of performing risk assessments and using **mathematical equations to interpret the results**. I have extensive experience in this area and am comfortable with a variety of methods for assessing risk.*
- *I have used mathematical equations such as **Incidence, Prevalence, attack rates, Utilization ratios**.....*



# What makes you the best candidate for this infection preventionist position?



- The Interviewer wants to learn more about your qualifications and how you feel you can contribute to their organization.

## How to Answer:

- *I am **passionate** about infection control*
- ***My experience in the field**, I have been working as an Infection Preventionist for over 10 years, and during that time I have gained a deep understanding of the principles and practices associated with preventing and controlling infections.*
- *I also possess **strong interpersonal skills** which are ,I am able to work effectively with physicians, nurses, and other staff members*
- *While I do believe in **teamwork**, I am also **very independent**.*
- *I am **highly organized and detail-oriented**, allowing me to stay on top of any changes or updates to infection prevention protocols. ”*



# Are you comfortable working with a wide range of patients, including those who are very young, very old or who have compromised immune systems?

- The interviewer wants to assess your ability to work with a variety of patients with different predisposing Factors.

## How to Answer:

- *“I am comfortable working with a wide range of patients.*
- *For example, when working with very young or very old patients and their different aspects.*
- *I also recognize the importance of taking **extra precautions** when dealing with patients who have immunocompromised patients*



# What is your opinion on the role of technology in improving infection prevention practices?

- The interviewer wants to know your ability to work with electronic patient records and automated alert systems and you are comfortable with the use of technology and can bring new ideas to the table.

## How to Answer:

- *I believe that **technology has a major role** to play in improving infection prevention practices.*
- *In my current role, I have used **electronic patient records** to track and monitor the progress of patients, as well as **automated alert systems** to quickly identify any potential infections.*
- *I am also familiar with **software data analysis tools** which can be used to detect trends or areas of concern.*



# Why are you leaving your current job?



- You have to **be careful** when answering this question.
- It would be best never to discuss the drama or “unfair” treatment from another company.
- It doesn’t look professional, and the interviewer doesn’t want to hear that you can’t handle yourself when things get tough.
- Instead, **please keep it simple and make the job transfer a step in a new direction or maybe a search for something closer to home or due to relocating.**



# What are your biggest weaknesses in the infection control field?

- Interviewer like to see what people think about themselves .
- When discussing your weaknesses, never talk about negative things.
- Your weaknesses should be beneficial to the field and easy to work with.

## How to Answer:

- *I have been told that I can be a **little bit of a perfectionist**.*
- *I may take extra steps to keep things **organized and tidy**, which isn't necessarily needed,*
- *Sometimes to the extreme, I put extra work on myself.*



# How well do you perform under pressure? Can you provide an example?

- The interviewer wants to assess your ability to work under pressure and prioritize tasks and how to manage multiple projects

## How to Answer:

- *In my current role as an infection control practitioner, I am responsible for **managing a large team** of nurses and medical professionals who are all working on different aspects of patient care.*
- *In addition, I have to ensure that our hospital is in compliance with **Ministry regulations**.*
- *I often have to multitask between **reviewing reports, conducting inspections and providing feedback to staff members.***”



# Do you have experience working with patients who speak different languages?

- The interviewer wants to see if you have experience working with patients who speak different languages as hospitals serve diverse population of patients.

## How to Answer:

- *I worked at a hospital where many of our patients spoke different languages...*
- *I learned to **communicate with different populations.***
- *In addition, we had **bilingual** staff members on hand to **translate** when needed.*
- *I also used **online translation apps** to communicate with patients who did not speak Arabic.”*



# Post- INTERVIEW



- SEND A THANK YOU NOTE OR EMAIL TO THE INTERVIEWER/S TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR TIME
- Review own performance
  - what went well
  - what went badly
  - what you wished you had said
  - prepare for next stage
- Rejection letter / email
  - if you can request feedback - use it

# Interview Summary



## EXPAND

- Expand on key items listed on your resume/cover letter.
- Be sure to reference related, past experiences that fit the requirements of the position.



## SHARE

- Share your stories that showcase past experiences.



## KNOW

- Know your strengths & weaknesses.
- Show how you have overcome at least ONE weakness.



## PREPARE

- Prepare a closing statement & questions.

A photograph of two business professionals shaking hands in a meeting room. The person on the left is wearing a light-colored suit, and the person on the right is wearing a dark blue suit. In the background, other people in business attire are visible, some looking at a laptop on a table. The text 'THANK YOU' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

**THANK YOU**