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Am J Infect Control. 1998 Dec;26(6):594-604; quiz 605-6.

## Prevention of infection in the immunocompromised host.

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### Abstract

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc, is accredited as a provider of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This learner-paced study package is designated for 1.1 contact hours. APIC's California nursing provider number is CEP 7146. This continuing medical laboratory education activity is recognized by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists as meeting the criteria for 1 CMLE credit hour. ASCP CMLE credit hours are acceptable to meet the continuing education requirements for the ASCP Board of Registry Continuing Competence Recognition Program. (See the instructions and examination at the end of the article.) Infectious diseases represent a major cause of morbidity and mortality in immunocompromised patients. Infectious complications are often predictable and may be preventable. This article is an overview of practical considerations in the care of immunocompromised patients. Recognizing the compromised host, identifying and correcting risk factors in advance, and reducing sources of infection all play a role in prevention. Topics were chosen to include the areas of care that differ from the immune competent patient, such as diet, **pet therapy**, handwashing, immunizations, augmentation of host resistance, prevention of pneumonia, and antibiotic prophylaxis. National practice guidelines are cited when possible; evidence-based literature review and experience are applied to situations lacking consensus statements. Treatment decisions are made in areas for which information is often incomplete. A systematic approach to care of the immunocompromised host, tailored to the individual patient's needs, should reduce the risk of infection.

PMID: 9836845 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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**Publication Types, MeSH Terms** 

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