### Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool Module 11: Water Exposure

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### **Objectives**

- Provide a brief over view of the ICAR
- Describe Module 11- Part A and Part B
- © Discuss areas most commonly identified as areas for improvements

### **ICAR Tools at a Glance**

- Used to systematically assess Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) policies and practices in healthcare facility types across the continuum of care and to help guide quality improvement activities.
- ♥ Intended for use in acute care, long-term care, and outpatient settings.
- Includes a series of 11 modules.
- Not intended for use in outpatient hemodialysis facilities. There is a separate ICAR designated solely for conducting assessments surrounding IPC practices in Hemodialysis Clinics.
- Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool for General Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Across Settings | HAIs | CDC

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### **ICAR Module 11: Water Exposure at a Glance**

- Facilitator Guided includes definitions and explanations to assist the person/facility conducting the assessment.
- Text Boxes & Appendices include additional references to helpful tools and resource links on regulations, recommendations, and best practices surrounding water as an IPC topic to aid in addressing identified opportunities for improvements.

### Two Sections:

- Part A Qualitative "Interview" Section
- Part B Quantitative "Observation" Section

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### Module 11

# Part A. Water Exposure Interview Questions:

- Intended to aid in the review of a healthcare facility's infection risks posed by water exposures and related policies.
- This interview should include the person in charge of Plant Operations or Facility Management

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### **Topics assessed in Module 11: Part A**

- Water management program (WMP)
- Water-associated Pathogens
- Measures to Reduce Risk from Water
- Decorative Water Features and Aquariums
- Patient Care Activities Using Water
- ♥ Vulnerable Populations
- Water Disruption
- Water Intrusion

### Water Management Program

- Does your facility have a WMP to reduce the growth and transmission of Legionella and other waterborne pathogens (e.g., Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter, Burkholderia, Stenotrophomonas, nontuberculous mycobacteria, and fungi)?
- Has a facility water infection control risk assessment been performed to identify potential issues arising from water exposures, e.g., CDC's WICRA?

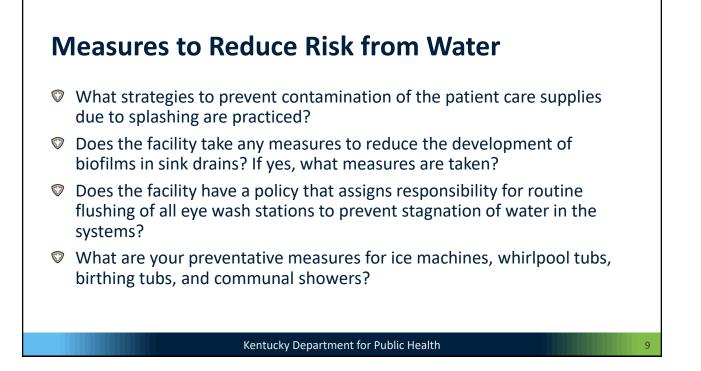
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### Water-associated Pathogens

- Does the facility have a surveillance process to detect healthcareassociated infections attributable to water-associated pathogens?
- If yes, what water-associated pathogens are routinely included in surveillance plans?
- Does clinical testing of patients/residents for Legionella include a paired lower respiratory culture and urinary antigen test?

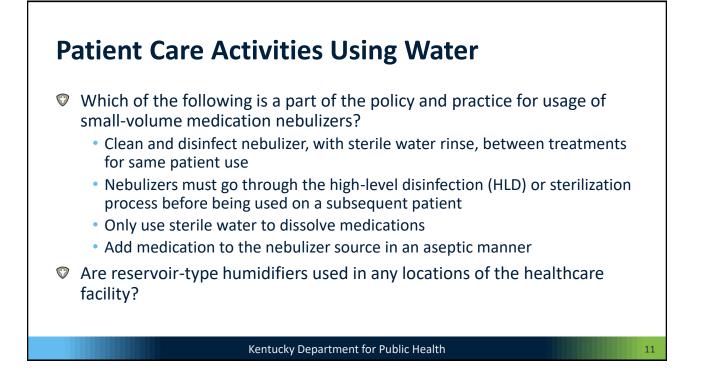
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### **Decorative Water Features and Aquariums**

- Are decorative water features located inside the facility?
- If yes, do written procedures include routine disinfection of water, residual disinfectant monitoring, visual monitoring of water clarity, and maintenance log of monitoring and cleaning/disinfection?
- ♥ Are fish tanks or aquariums located within the facility?
- ♥ If yes, do written protocols include routine cleaning schedules?



# **Vulnerable Populations**

- Does the facility have protective environments (PE) or transplant units?
- If yes, are shower heads and tap aerators used in the PE or transplant unit disinfected monthly with a chlorine-based EPA-registered product or a chlorine bleach solution?

### Water Disruption

- Is there a protocol in place for addressing the infection prevention issues for planned water disruption?
- ♥ If yes, what elements are included in the protocol?
- ♥ Is there a protocol in place to respond to an unplanned water disruption?
- ♥ If yes, what elements are included in this protocol?

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### Water Intrusion

- Does the facility have a plan to respond to internal (e.g., construction damage) disasters resulting in water intrusion?
- If yes, how are patients protected from risks due to water intrusion from internal sources?
- Does the facility have a plan to respond to external disasters (e.g., natural disaster, flooding) resulting in water intrusion?

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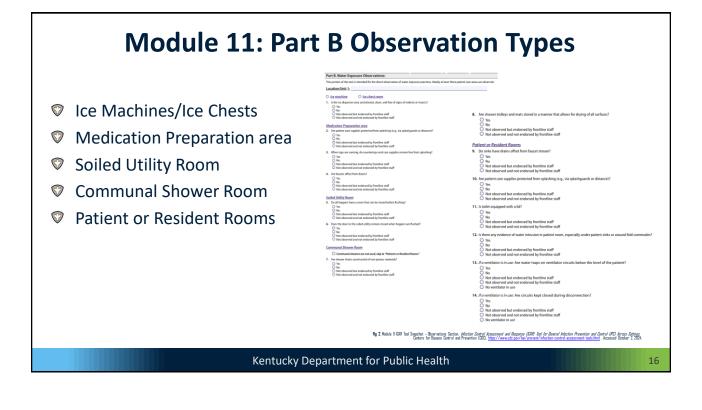
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## Module 11- Water Exposure Tool Part B

### **Observations:**

- Corresponding component to guide observations about water exposure risks.
- This portion of the tool is intended for the direct observation of water exposure practices.
- ♥ Ideally at least three patient care areas are observed.

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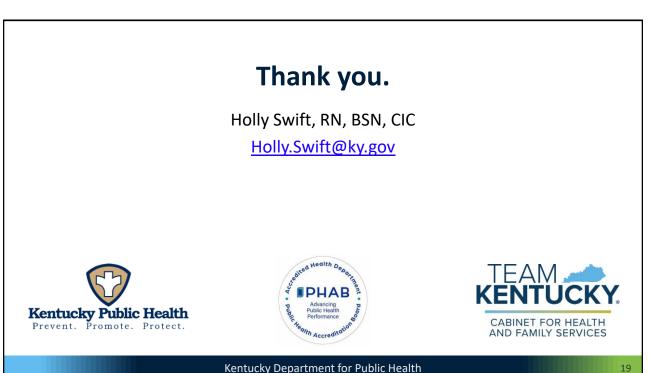
# Commonly Identified Opportunities for Improvements Patient care supplies in splash zones Patient care rooms converted to office spaces Exterior faucets Decontamination showers in Emergency Department and Laboratory Toilet and hopper covers

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### Resources - KDPH

- Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool for General Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Across Settings | HAIs | CDC
- ICAR Tool for General Infection and Control (IPC) Across Settings Module 11: Water Exposure Facilitator Guide (cdc.gov)
- Overview of Water Management Programs | Control Legionella | CDC
- Toolkit: Developing a Legionella Water Management Program | Control Legionella | CDC

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