There are approximately eighty sites across Central Alberta contracted to provide designated supportive living and long-term care spaces. In addition, there are many non-designated senior living homes with varied corporate infection prevention and control (IPC) support. Sites may have a manager, educator, Director of Care, housekeeping, and dietary leads in addition to the point of care staff.

Staff turnover in these settings is common, in both leadership positions and those responsible for resident care. IPC information often is not passed on to the next generation.

Educating new staff to the IPC practices, protocols, and resources is important to create an awareness of the role of IPC in resident safety and the prevention of healthcare-associated infections.

The Central Zone (CenZ) IPC Editing Working Group reviewed the information of the reference guide for relevancy and rating of 86%.

The guide allows for just-in-time education for new managers, staff and IPC designates.

The guide provides a standardized process and consistent best practices to promote resident, visitor and staff safety.

Encouraging staff to save the guide on computer desktops allows for ready access to web links. The guide ensures staff have current and consistent information that supports IPC best practices to promote resident safety, to the resources.

The opportunity for the infection control professionals (ICPs) to build connections with the IPC Designate and facility staff is increasing due to the frequency and variety of interactions. The guide allows for an opportunity for just-in-time education.