

**Your Free eBook:
Healthcare Construction
Best Practices for Public Protection:**

**An ANSI-Accredited
Credential that's a Must for
Construction Personnel**

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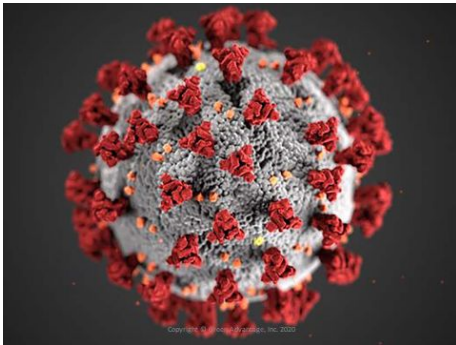
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Introduction

Healthcare Construction Best Practices for Public Protection



The COVID-19 pandemic is just one of many threats that must be addressed by healthcare construction workers to protect workers, patients, staff, and the general public.

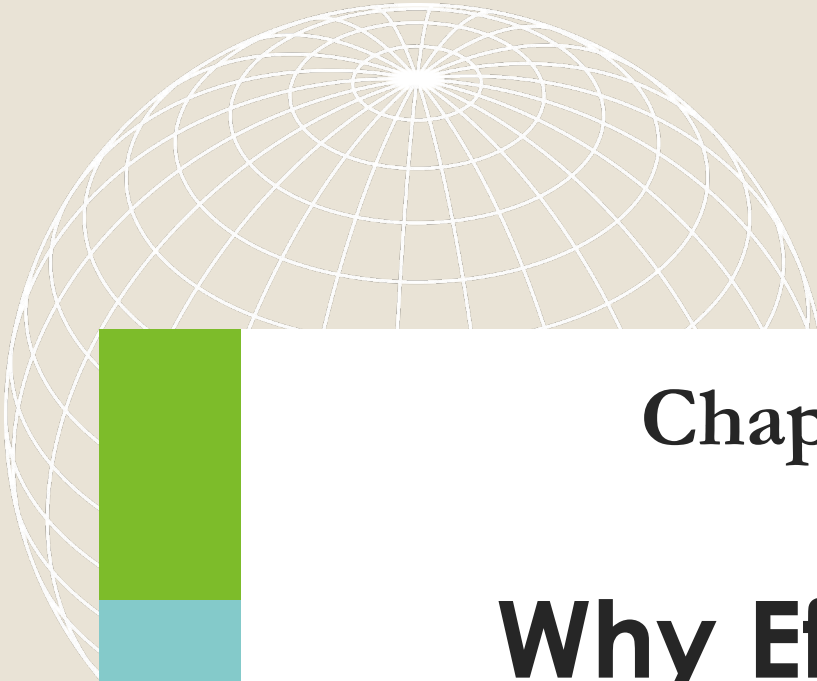
Other biological infections, fire equipment and systems, utility services, noise, vibration, odors, delivery/handling/storage of supplies and materials, and ventilation are all important areas of concern.

This free e-book shares practical knowledge about key concepts related to the risks of healthcare construction and an overview of the only ANSI-accredited Pre-construction Risk Assessment/Infection Control Risk Assessment (PCRA/ICRA) Certificate Program in the marketplace. You'll be introduced to the:

Need for PCRA/ICRA. Why PCRA and ICRA are required in healthcare construction by The Joint Commission, the accrediting body for over 80% of the healthcare organizations in the United States.

PCRA Components. The eight essential components of PCRA for planned and unplanned construction.

ANSI-accredited PCRA/ICRA Certificate Program. Learn why leading experts are calling for an ANSI-accredited PCRA/ICRA Certificate as a pre-qualification for all construction and maintenance personnel who work on healthcare construction projects.



Chapter One

Why Efforts are Underway Nationally to Require this Credential



Have you heard of The Joint Commission?

It's the organization that accredits over 20,000 healthcare facilities in the United States.

Accreditation by the Joint Commission is not only essential to the reputation of the healthcare organization, it is required in many states for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, private insurer reimbursement and regulatory compliance.

In The Joint Commission's "Environment of Care News", November and December 2019 issue, 5 authors called for a particular [ANSI-accredited credential](#) to be earned by **all** healthcare construction and maintenance personnel.

What credential did they call for? A Pre-construction Risk Assessment/Infection Control Risk Assessment Certificate Program. It's known as PCRA/ICRA for short.

The healthcare health and safety experts who wrote this article are giving a heads up to the The Joint Commission and to the industry.

They are letting the public and industry stakeholders know that demonstrating your competence as a construction worker by possessing this credential should not be an option, but a requirement.

Currently there is only one [ANSI-accredited PCRA/ICRA Certificate Program](#) in the market.

It requires taking 12 hours of webinar training and passing a short exam given online.

Keep reading to learn more about why earning this credential is a must for healthcare construction workers.

Why PCRA/ICRA?



PCRA and ICRA processes apply to healthcare construction, whether it is planned or unplanned.

They are important risk protocols for new construction, renovation, deconstruction, demolition as well as maintenance and repairs.

In fact, PCRA and ICRA are so important that The Joint Commission requires them both.

Another interesting fact is that PCRA is the umbrella for ICRA. PCRA not only requires infection control, it also requires addressing a number of other risks. These include, but are not limited to:

- Noise
- Vibration
- Odors
- Security
- Maintenance
- Fire systems
- Ventilation
- Utility systems
- Medical equipment
- Storing, transporting, and delivering supplies and materials
- Waste Management

Why PCRA/ICRA?



The PCRA and ICRA processes begin during the healthcare construction project planning.

The risks assessed can be within or nearby the healthcare facility.

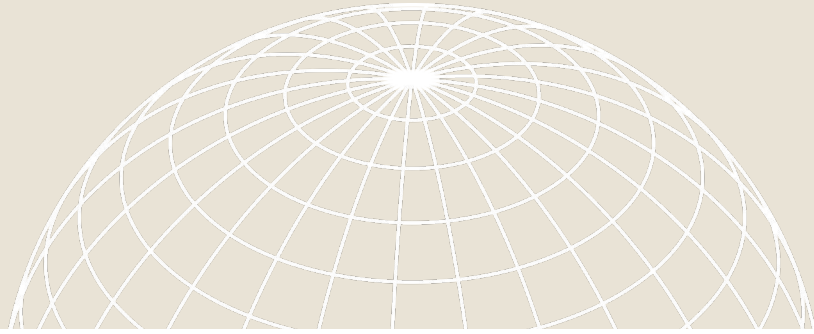
The risks and their mitigation measures are documented.

And PCRA/ICRA requires a thorough review by a multidisciplinary team.

The team includes healthcare facility administrators, facility staff, infection prevention specialists and construction personnel.

Some examples of projects that require PCRA/ICRA processes include the following:

- Renovating a cardiac catheterization lab
- Replacing electrical wiring in the operating room (OR) suite
- Constructing a new building adjacent to existing patient care
- Running new information technology (IT) wiring for a new electronic health record system
- Renovating an area to create a new inpatient hemodialysis unit



Chapter Two

An Overview of the Credential: The 8 Components of PCRA/ICRA

The 8 PCRA Components

There are 8 components to PCRA. Let's briefly review them.

1. Detail project work

First, the healthcare organization must describe the project, whether planned or unplanned. So a planned renovation of a hospital or unplanned construction in the wake of COVID or a natural disaster, such as a hurricane, are all subject to PCRA.

2. Identify surrounding areas

Next, surrounding areas of the project must be identified. For example, with an operating room rehab project, the adjacent areas might include the recovery room, the MRI room, as well as other rooms on the same floor below or above the project area, depending upon the hospital's layout.

3. Select construction activity type

Third, the type of construction activity is selected. For example, it may be an inspection, a small-scale/short-term project, a medium or a large-scale/multi-year project.

4. Identify infection precautions

Fourth, identify infection mitigation strategies for the type of construction and the characteristics of the occupants. An example might be to maintain negative air pressure within the worksite. Another example might be to maintain an anteroom under negative pressure compared to patient areas.

The 8 PCRA Components

5. Identify issues/impacts

Fifth, what might be some other environmental issues and/or impacts? These might be air quality, dust, emergency procedures, noise, odors, delivery and storage of materials, waste management, utilities, and equipment management.

6. Identify means/methods

Sixth, what mitigation methods should be used to address the issues and impacts identified in step 5? The mitigation measures need to take into account various inputs. These can include regulatory requirements, history, guidance from experts, and how best to protect occupants.

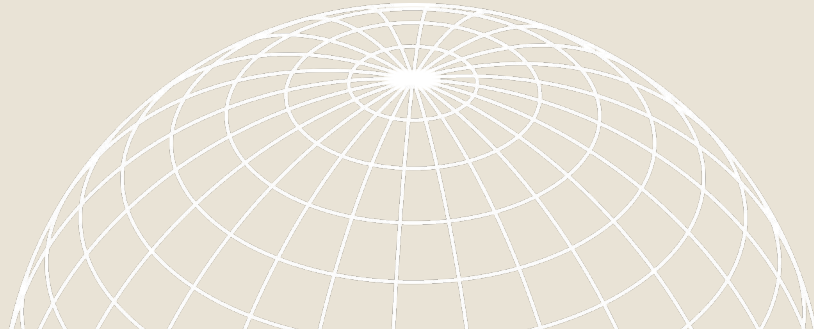
7. Complete ILSMs

In step 7, ILSM stands for interim life safety measures. The PCRA needs to include an ILSM. If the construction work planned will trigger a Life Safety Code®* deficiency, interim life safety measures need to be implemented. For example, a Fire protection system might need to be taken offline, or the egress needs to be rerouted.

8. Monitor project/worksites

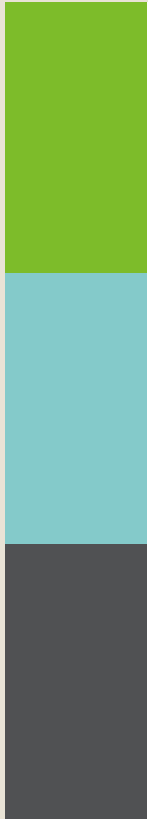
For this step, continuous monitoring and daily surveillance are needed to ensure that appropriate measures are maintained. Depending upon conditions, the measures may need to be modified. New measures may be necessary. A common barrier is lack of trained and competent personnel.

* Life Safety Code® is a registered trademark of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA.



Chapter Three

**COVID-19 and
Other Mounting
Threats Make the
Case for
Credentialing**



COVID-19 & Other Threats

The 5 authors, in the two-part article in a publication of the Joint Commission mentioned previously, pointed to significant emerging global risks.

Even prior to COVID-19, they concluded that these risks exacerbate the need for raising the bar on PCRA/ICRA requirements.

The authors went on to prophetically state that these heightened threat levels make the PCRA/ICRA processes increasingly critical—to the point that they should be considered part of emergency preparedness. They listed the threats below.

Climate change

The World Health Organization (WHO) calls climate change “the greatest challenge of the 21st century, threatening all aspects of the society in which we live.”

Disasters

Disasters can dramatically increase healthcare occupancy rates and healthcare worker stress levels of health care workers. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 2019 is the fifth consecutive year (2015-2019) in which 10 or more weather and climate disaster events have impacted the United States in which damages/costs reached or exceeded one billion dollars.

Infectious disease emergence/reemergence

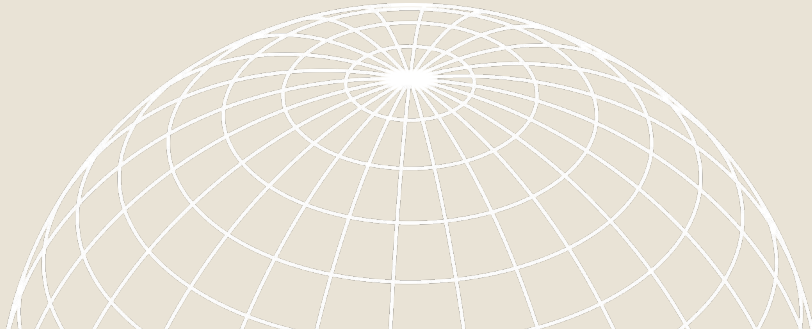
COVID-19 shows us all how a pandemic can overwhelm healthcare capacity and preparedness.

Antimicrobial resistance

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections occur in the U.S. each year, and more than 35,000 people die as a result. The number of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and fungi continues to rise.

Pollution

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) reports that, “Air pollution is now considered to be the world’s largest environmental health threat, accounting for 7 million deaths around the world every year. Air pollution causes and exacerbates a number of diseases, ranging from asthma to cancer, pulmonary illnesses and heart disease.”



Chapter Four

Get Ahead of the Curve: Details & Next Steps to Earn this Valuable Credential

Some Details & Next Steps

Below are some additional details about the ANSI/ASTM-accredited PCRA/ICRA Certificate Program:

Certificate Requirements:

- Attend 12 hours of training and
- Pass the exam following the training

Exam length/format:

- 50 minute test time
- 25 multiple-choice questions

Components:

- 12 hrs. live webinar training
- Training Manual
- Exam

Term of Validity of Certificate:

- Remains valid through June 20, 2022

Fee:

- \$499/person
- Bulk rates as low as \$399/person

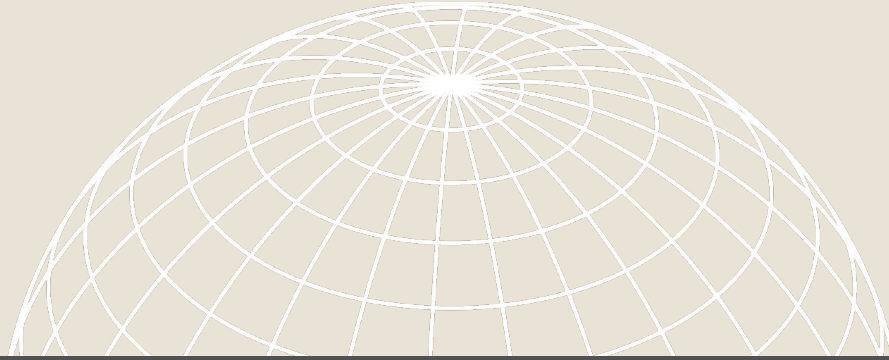
Next Steps:

The 12-hour training has been approved by GBCI for continuing education.

To view the live webinar training schedule, [click here](#).

To register or purchase bulk vouchers, [sign up here](#).

www.greenadvantage.org



Earn a PCRA/ICRA Certificate

Join a live training webinar and pass an exam to earn a credential that demonstrates your expertise in healthcare construction that protects the public.

[REGISTER](#)

Attributions and Resources

The major resource for this ebook is the article from the Joint Commission publication:

Balestrieri, C., Haber, K., Haran, M., Marzo, S., and Sohl, J., Environment of Care News, The Joint Commission, “Mitigating Construction and Maintenance Risks, PCRA and ICRA—Procedures and Best Practices”, November and December, 2019, Volume 22, Issues 11 and 12.

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