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NEW MEXICO BANDS TOGETHER For Patient Safety –

Colored Wristband Standardization Kicks Off

The New Mexico Hospital Association (NMHA) marked National Patient Safety Awareness Week March 4-10 with a voluntary statewide initiative to standardize colored-coded wristbands used in hospitals. To help facilities reduce any potential for harm and improve patient safety, NMHA and statewide hospital representatives are coordinating the project to standardize wristband alert colors for

the state, which follows similar efforts throughout several Southwestern states (AZ, CO, CA have already initiated the project) using the same wristband colors.

BAND TOGETHER for Patient Safety standardizes three condition alerts:

Purple for DNR
Red for ALLERGIES
Yellow for FALL RISK

NM hospital patient safety

experts, representing fourteen hospitals, participated in the March 7 conference call, with a follow-up announcement sent out via email to all New Mexico CEOs, CNOs, and PSOs.

“This is a major state and regional initiative to support hospitals and healthcare organizations, and a tremendous first step for our patient safety initiative,” said Jeff Dye, President and CEO of NMHA.

Please see **BAND TOGETHER** on p. 2



**PROTECT
LIVES BY
PREVENTING
MRSA AND
SURGICAL SITE
INFECTIONS.**

**March 29, 2007
10A-3P**

Lovelace Med
Center Downtown,
Albuquerque.

Register with
Rebecca Neu at
505.998.9753

I.H.I. 5 Million Lives Campaign Visits New Mexico

Promote Campaign Awareness: Free Campaign Posters Available

Need help getting the word out about your hospital's work on the Campaign? Encourage your teams to wear the new 5 Million Lives Campaign buttons. Display Campaign posters (19" x 24") and distribute Campaign information during your next health fair. Include the new Campaign logo with an article about your team's efforts in your hospital's newsletter. To request the new Campaign logo and order 5 Million Lives Campaign posters, buttons or brochures, send an email to Campaign@ihi.org. For poster, brochure or button orders, please let IHI know your mailing address, how many you need, and by what date.

Affirm Your Enrollment in the 5 Million Lives Campaign

A word of thanks to the New Mexico hospitals who have updated their Hospital Profile:

IHI has extended the first official data submission period for the 5 Million Lives Campaign until February 16, 2007. These deadlines matter because they provide IHI important snapshots of Campaign participants and overall engagement, and we encourage you to please update your Hospital Profile on the Campaign Extranet, www.ihi.org/extranetng.

Updating your Hospital Profile should take around

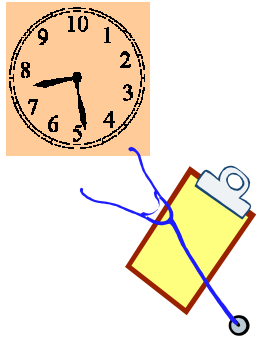
20 minutes. The Hospital Profile section now includes fields added since the launch of the new Campaign, including a question that will allow you to affirm your enrollment in the 5 Million Lives Campaign.

The updated [Data Submission How-To Guide](#) contains full instructions on how to update your Hospital Profile and includes all the questions on the new Hospital Profile questionnaire in Appendix A.

IHI will begin measuring data submission, including (optional) submission of intervention-level measures for the six new interventions, in April 2007.

STAFF MEETING – BROWN BAG TOPICS

March Feature: Infection Prevention



Effective handwashing requires workers to coat their hands and rub them for at least 15 seconds.

This month features **INFECTION PREVENTION**, and what staff can do. STEP ONE is to heighten awareness. We know this is a problem, but just how big of a problem is it? Here are some stats:

- Each year, more than 2 million people acquire an infection during a hospital stay.
- One in twenty of them will die as a result. That equals 274 people a day!
- Experts estimate that up to 30 percent of these infections are preventable.
- Treatment for MRSA alone accounts for \$2.5 billion dollars. That is just under \$7 million a day.

Imagine what America's healthcare industry could do with that money if we prevented these infections. A recent article in the Hospital and Health Networks publication addressed this issue and some of those hints are being passed on to you.

1. **BE THE EXAMPLE.** A study showed that if a senior doctor did not wash his/her hands while making rounds, 90% of the staffers, including nurses, residents, and medical students, did not wash their hands.
2. **ALCOHOL HAND RUBS.** Alcohol-based rubs reduce bacteria and viruses on hands, require less time to use and cause less irritation and dryness than using soap and water. To increase compliance, make them convenient and close to the point of care.
3. **INCLUDE STETHOSCOPES AND KEYBOARDS.** We often forget that patient care items such as BP cuffs and stethoscopes can be nice modes of travel for these bugs. And when you sign onto a computer, have you ever wondered if the prior user left something behind? Put up signs next to the keyboard along with a hand sanitizer.
4. **MAKE IT FUN!** A hospital in Ohio had staff members from all departments observe 10 situations that call for handwashing. Using index cards printed with "YES" or "NO," a staff member documents whether colleagues wash their hands when they should. Those being observed are not identified. Once all ten observations are done, the observers' names are entered in a drawing for a small prize. This seems backwards to award the observers but what it actually does is call attention to the issue in that observer and they subsequently become more compliant.

To download the full article from Hospitals & Health Networks, use this link:

http://www.hhnmag.com/hhnmag_app/jsp/articledisplay.jsp?dcrpath=HHNMAG/PubsNewArticle/data/2006September/0609HHN_CoverStory&domain=HHNMAG



"Excellence can be obtained if you care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, and expect more than others think is possible."

Kip Tindell, CEO, The Container Store

BAND TOGETHER For Patient Safety – Colored Wristband Standardization Project (cont. from p. 1)



NMHA will support the hospitals in this endeavor by providing a Tool Kit in CD-ROM format. The Tool Kit contents (in the process of being finalized by hospital patient safety experts from around the state) will include samples of:

Colors for alerts and logic for colors selected, Staff education tools, Patient education brochures, Frequently asked questions, Work-plan for

implementation, and Sample Policy and Procedures.

Toolkits should be available by April 2007, and will be mailed to all hospitals.

If you'd like to be notified when the Toolkit will be available, email einterlandi@nmhsc.org

The Executive Summary of the project, and the NM wristband survey can be downloaded on our website:

www.nmhhsa.org

->Patient Safety

-> Resources

-> BAND TOGETHER

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Please contact us if you'd like to write an article for this newsletter that highlights Patient Safety efforts in your organization

About Our Organization...

NMHA is the non-profit trade organization representing the 41 non-federal hospitals in the state.

Our mission is to work with others to improve the health status of the citizens of New Mexico

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.nmhhsa.org>

Did you notice? We have changed our name from *New Mexico Hospitals & Health Systems Association* to

***NEW MEXICO
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION***

Please bear with us as we change our association logo to reflect our new name!

DOWNLOAD THE NEW ANA CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

As part of the ongoing Positive Change in Patient Safety Toolkit. This material is designed to educate nurses on ways to enhance patient safety, to explain how nurses can facilitate participation in the Campaign in their organizations with suggestions for planning, education, and working with hospital leadership. The ANA is working as a strategic partner with IHI on the 5 Million Lives Campaign. Their latest contribution to the Campaign is the Effecting

You can download the toolkit at:

www.nursingworld.org/patientsafety/IHI2006Toolkit.pdf.

TOOLS YOU CAN USE:

Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)

<http://www.ihl.org/ihl>

National Patient Safety Foundation

<http://npsf.org>

New Mexico Medical Review Association (NMMRA)

<http://www.nmmra.org>

The Leapfrog Group

<http://www.leapfroggroup.org/>

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

<http://www.ahrq.gov/>

Institute for Safe Medicine Practices

<http://www.ismp.org/default.asp>

APIC-The Association for Professionals in Infection Control

<http://www.apic.org>

Joint Commission (formerly JCAHO)

<http://www.jointcommission.org/>

CHECK US OUT: The New Mexico Hospital Association has a 16 page special advertising section highlighting Patient Safety in the **New Mexico Business Journal April 2007** edition.

Check it out in April at <http://www.nmbiz.com/> or contact them via email at editor@nmbiz.com,

THANK YOU to those organizations who advertised in this section. There will be another opportunity in September's NMBJ.

SAVE THE DATES:

IHI 5 Million Lives Campaign Visits New Mexico

Lovelace Medical Center -Downtown

March 29, 2007 10:00-4:00 . *RSVP to Rebecca Neu 505.998.9753*