



Advisory

Healthcare-Associated Infections

MRSA

October 31, 2007

New information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the prevalence of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (**MRSA**), and antibiotic resistant staph infection, provides an opportunity for hospitals to reassess infection control and prevention practices, and to reach out to their communities to assist in addressing the threat of infections.

Recent local and national media reports of staph infections in schools, gyms, and day care centers have heightened community awareness of MRSA and the importance of community-wide infection prevention. We encourage you to offer your expertise and engage with others in your community, particularly with other healthcare providers and schools, health clubs and other organizations where infections frequently occur, to fight infections together. **Infection prevention is everyone's job.**

What is the Hospital Association Doing?

- ▶ NMHA is taking a proactive lead to support hospitals and healthcare professionals by supporting the need for infection surveillance and education. The following information can be found on our website (www.nmhanet.org)
 - Frequently Asked questions (FAQs)
 - Strategies for surveillance (including “how to” measurements) from the IHI 5 Million Lives Campaign
 - APIC Guide to Elimination of MRSA in Hospital Settings
 - Template newsletter you can use in your organization and community for MRSA education
- ▶ NMHA is actively participating in the House Joint Memorial 67 Task Force Feasibility of Conducting Surveillance for Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) in New Mexico, convened by the New Mexico Department of Health. The recommendations are as follows:
 - A multi-disciplinary Advisory Committee will be appointed with ongoing representation by agencies who served on the HJM 67 Task Force; and additional representation by identified stakeholders.
 - HAI surveillance should be conducted as a pilot for one year. Participation in the pilot should be voluntary, not reported publicly and should be treated confidentially. New Mexico Hospital Association will encourage at least three members to participate in the pilot and all results should be reviewed by an Advisory Committee comprised of professionals and citizens.
 - The initial pilot year should collect data on two measures:
 - a) one infection [the task force recommends central line-associated bloodstream infections* (CLABSIs) in adult intensive-care units (ICUs)];



- b) one process measure [the task force recommends influenza vaccination rates of healthcare workers (HCW)].

The pilot year outcomes should be assessed before further recommendations are provided.

What Can You Do?

- ▶ Take the lead in working together to fight infections in your community. Consider increasing your efforts to communicate about these issues with staff, patients, and your community. The attached Newsletter was compiled with the most recent information from the CDC, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC), and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), and reviewed by New Mexico Infectious Disease professionals. It is in WORD format so that you may add your organizational logo, and distribute to employees, patients, families, volunteers, even local schools.
- ▶ Review your infection control plan in light of the CDC's findings and update it if necessary. It may be appropriate in your organization to increase surveillance activities. Successful planning and prevention involves a wide range of professionals and employees within the hospital, including physicians, nurses, and other caregivers; the quality improvement team; the housekeeping department and the communications team, among others.
- ▶ Participate in specially arranged AHA member calls with CDC experts to keep abreast of current information on infections and best practices in infection control. The first calls will be November 9, and December 10, both at 1200 PM MT. Watch for more information on these calls.