

Hospital Edition, Issue 10

# Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Newsletter

#### Department of Health (Department) Information

#### Infection Control Plans

Act 52 of 2007 requires all hospitals, nursing homes and ambulatory surgical centers to develop and implement infection control plans that contain specific elements and submit them to the Department of Health (Department) for review. The Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention (HAIP) Section reviewed these infection control plans to ensure the necessary elements were included. Previous guidance issued by the Department stated that any updates or revisions to the infection control plan also had to be submitted to the Department for review. This guidance has changed.

A healthcare facility no longer needs to submit any updates or revisions to their infection control plan to HAIP. However, if the facility requests that HAIP review the infection control plan and/or any updates to ensure all eight components (identified in Act 52 of 2007) are present, we will provide this assistance as part of our advisory role.

**Newly** licensed Pennsylvania hospitals, nursing homes and ambulatory surgical centers will still be required to send (through the <u>postal service or email</u>) one copy of their infection control plan to the Department of Health, HAIP for the initial review. Any questions regarding the infection control plans may be directed to Michelle Matz at <u>mimatz@pa.gov</u>.

#### **Patient Safety Authority Advisories**

Reminder: Chapter 4 of The Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act, 40 P.S. § 1303.403(a)(8) – Infection Control Plan states that a health-care facility shall have "a procedure for distribution of advisories issued under section 405(b)(4) so as to ensure easy access in each health care facility for all administrative staff, medical personnel and health care workers."

The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (PSA) as per section 405(b)(4) issues advisories to health care facilities. Advisories can be accessed through the link below or by visiting the PSA's website (www.patientsafetyauthority.org).



Patient Safety Advisories



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### Department Information continued...

## TIPS for Infection Control / Multidisciplinary Committees

- Allow time for members to prepare by sending an agenda in advance of the meeting.
- Have a sign in sheet to reflect (and track) member participation.
- Involve members by creating opportunities for them.
- Recognize each individual for their membership and effort.
- Engage in regular communication.
- Be enthusiastic! Your attitude can be infectious.



#### Topics to help facilitate discussions:

- Is there communication with other committees on infection control and prevention related issues?
- Do we utilize elimination guidelines or bundles? Have they been successful?
- Should we participate in pilot programs or prevention collaborative opportunities?
- Is there communication regarding policy updates and revisions as needed?
- Is there discussion of patient education and /or family education?
- Is antimicrobial usage monitored?
- Is compliance of the infection control plan monitored?
- Are HAI serious events discussed?
- Are infection related issues addressed?



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# Department Information continued...

### Healthcare Personnel Vaccination against Influenza

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) considers healthcare personnel vaccination against influenza to be an important indicator and measure of institutional commitment to patient safety. The Department, with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Healthcare Quality Alliance (PHCQA), conducted a voluntary survey of inpatient facilities in Pennsylvania to assess the patterns and levels of influenza vaccination among the healthcare workforce. Rates from each institution participating in this year's survey will be displayed publicly in the PADOH 2011 Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Annual Report. Ninety-three percent of facilities participated in this survey! The survey data shows that near-universal vaccination is achievable and already occurring in the state of Pennsylvania.

Influenza vaccination is the single most effective way of preventing influenza. Influenza vaccination keeps us healthy and protects our families. When we vaccinate healthcare personnel against influenza we protect our patients by "first, doing no harm," decreasing absenteeism, and promoting a healthy workforce to care for the people who need us most. The Department continues to promote evidence-based universal influenza vaccination initiatives for healthcare personnel (HCP) and encourages healthcare institutions to make vaccination a condition of employment to achieve the Health People 2020 goal of 90 percent.

The health care worker influenza vaccine coverage survey metrics are consistent with National Quality Forum (NQF) metric #0431. Completing this year's voluntary survey has the added benefit of preparing your facility to fulfill reporting requirements of the Joint Commission (IC.02.04.01) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS; Final Rule, 18 Aug 2011, pp. 51631-51633) that will be using NQF 0431. CMS requires reporting through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) beginning in January 2013 to avoid a 2 percent adjustment to FY2015 payments.



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#### **NHSN Information**

#### **Attention NHSN Administrators**

NHSN Facility Administrators are reminded to review their list of users in NHSN to confirm that the contact information is accurate and to deactivate users who are no longer employed by the facility. If a user no longer needs access to NHSN, the user profile should be set to "Inactive" to terminate access to the facility's data.

#### NHSN Updated and Interactive Training

NHSN has released a <u>new interactive Web-Based training program</u> for the Device Associated and Procedure Associated Modules.

# CDC National and State Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) Report

The CDC released the <u>National and State HAI SIR Report</u> on April 19, 2012. The Report presents a comprehensive summary of HAI data collected in the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network from January through December 2010. This report includes information about:

- Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs)
   National statistics for hospitals
   State-specific statistics for all 50 states
- Surgical site infections (SSIs)
   National statistics for 10 surgical procedures done in hospitals
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs)
   National statistics for hospitals



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### **Resources & Information**

#### **NHSN Newsletters**

The June 2012 Newsletter is now available. It includes highlights that will occur with the Release of Version 7.0 that is scheduled for August/September 2012.

**NHSN Newsletters** 

### **NHSN Contact Information**

For NHSN help, please send an email to: nhsn@cdc.gov.

Remember to include the facility five-digit NHSN-assigned ID Number with your question.

CDC's NHSN Website: www.cdc.gov/nhsn

### **JCAHO Launches Portal**

The Joint Commission has launched a new Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Portal. The website provides a source of information related to HAI prevention. www.jointcomission.org/hai.aspx



#### Websites

www.health.state.pa.us

www.cdc.gov/nhsn/psc.html

www.patientsafetyauthority.org

www.phc4.org

www.apic.org

www.shea-online.org

www.jcaho.org

www.osha.gov

www.cms.gov