

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter March 2013

Department of Health Updates

McGeer Criteria

In compliance with Act 52 of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Act of 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) and the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (Authority) have collected healthcare-associated infections (HAI) reported from Pennsylvania long-term care (LTC) facilities through the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS) using nationally recognized standards. This effort has allowed the Authority, the Department and reporting facilities to identify infections that affect resident safety.

Recent revisions to the standardized infection surveillance definitions for LTC facilities, known as the McGeer Criteria, have prompted the Authority and the Department to consider reevaluating the PA-PSRS HAI-reporting criteria. In consultation with its expert HAI panel, the Authority is preparing to enhance PA-PSRS to incorporate the current McGeer criteria. Together with the Department, the Authority will keep LTC facilities informed of its progress with adopting the new criteria.

Infection Control Plans

Although facilities are no longer required to submit updates to their infection control plan to the Department, facilities are expected to keep these plans updated to reflect the requirements of Act 52.

Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) Advisory

On Feb. 14, 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) health advisory message about CRE. The message alerted clinicians about the need for additional prevention steps regarding CRE. [Read the CDC advisory](#). Learn more about the prevention of [CRE transmission through CDC's CRE Toolkit](#).

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Resources and Information

**Patient Safety Reporting System (PSRS)
Help Desk Contact Information**

The PA-PSRS Help Desk continues to be available for any clinical questions related to patient/infection reports, infection criteria or the PA-PSRS system.

The PSRS Help Desk may be accessed by telephone at 866-316-1070
or by email at support_papsrs@pa.gov.

Influenza Resources

The Pennsylvania Department of Health offers influenza resources for healthcare providers, including:

- [Flu shot finder](#) (by county or zip code);
- [Flu prevention tips](#);
- [Flu \(influenza\) facts](#); and
- [H3N2v](#) information.

Websites

www.health.state.pa.us
www.patientsafetyauthority.org
www.apic.org
www.shea-online.org
www.cms.gov