

Happy Holidays from CDC

PHA Update to State HAI Coordinators

It's hard to believe that the year has gone by so quickly and now the ARRA project period is coming to a close. PHAs will be requesting the final ARRA quarterly report toward the end of December. In the final report we've added just a few extra questions to help us summarize efforts that took place during the ARRA funding timeframe. Thank you for all your support in completing the reports for the past 2 years!

We want to make sure you are aware of a couple of efforts we are currently working on. First, we are making changes to the quarterly reporting process. We'll be removing ARRA references and restructuring some of the questions while at the same time requesting new information. Our intent is to make the reporting process user-friendly and to keep your reporting burden as low as possible, while collecting meaningful information to best track state HAI efforts. PHAs have already reached out to HAI Coordinators for input and we greatly appreciate all the feedback you've provided during the past few weeks!

It's also been a while since we've checked in with you on how we can best support your state HAI efforts. Please be looking for a needs assessment from PHAs in the next couple of months. This is a valuable tool for us to gauge where to focus resources. We appreciate your help in determining how to meet your needs most effectively.

Thank you and Happy Holidays,
The PHA Team

Communication Update



The CDC observed its *Get Smart About*

Antibiotics Week, November 14-20, 2011. The national campaign highlights the coordinated efforts of CDC, state and local health departments, and non-profit and for-profit partners to educate people about the importance of appropriate antibiotic use in both community and healthcare settings. CDC's *Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work* and *Get Smart for Healthcare* programs are designed to educate consumers and healthcare providers about appropriate use of antibiotics. CDC created new fact sheets for Get Smart Week, including fact sheets targeted at healthcare providers. To access Get Smart resources, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/healthcare/getSmartWeek.html>



CDC launched *Preventing Infections in Cancer Patients*, a

comprehensive program focused on providing information, action steps, and tools to help reduce the risk of developing potentially life-threatening infections during chemotherapy treatment. Through the program, CDC developed the following tools—

- A website called [3 Steps Toward Preventing Infections During Cancer Treatment](#)
- [Basic Infection Control and Prevention Plan for Outpatient Oncology Settings](#)

Save - the - Date

2012 HAI State Grantee Meeting

November 7- 8

Atlanta, GA





Toward Elimination

State Highlights

Volume 19, Dec 2011 p2

Indiana Highlight

On Thursday, October 27th, 2011, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) held its Fall Healthcare Leadership Conference. The Conference focused on care coordination and transition. It also included a presentation on HAI initiative outcomes. Dr. Nimalie Stone gave a wonderful presentation on antibiotic stewardship and the role of care coordination in preventing infections. The University of Indianapolis and the ISDH was able to spend some time with Dr. Stone to discuss prevention efforts. The conference was attended by 991 healthcare professionals, including participants from the initiative, long term care facilities, healthcare organizations, and the state surveying agency.



The Indiana State Department of Health posted its final online HAI educational module on their HAI Resource Center page (<http://www.in.gov/isdh/24769.htm>). The module, titled, "What are Healthcare Associated Infections?" is a wonderful resource for patients, their families, and healthcare providers.

West Virginia Highlight

In 2009, West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (WVBPH) investigated two healthcare-associated infection outbreaks in ambulatory surgery settings. WVBPH then conducted a needs assessment survey among infection preventionists within acute care and critical access hospitals in the state. As a result of the information gathered from the survey and to address the recent outbreaks, the West Virginia Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Advisory Group recommended that statewide infection prevention training should be provided to employees and staff of ambulatory surgery centers and outpatient clinics for the purpose of preventing healthcare-associated outbreaks.



The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), on behalf of the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services, Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology conducted the two-day Infection Prevention for Ambulatory Surgery Centers training at the Charleston Civic Center on October 27th– 28th, 2011. The training covered topics such as:

- Learning how to build and manage an effective infection prevention program
- Understanding regulatory requirements
- Reducing infection risk
- Implementing new interventions based on proven techniques and practices

The training provided an opportunity for attendees to network; it also offered continuing education credits. Approximately 115 participants from ambulatory surgery settings in four states (West Virginia, Ohio, Virginia and Kentucky) as well as other healthcare workers and public health officials from local, regional, and state health departments were in attendance.

For more information, please go to <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/OEPS/DISEASE/HAI/Pages/default.aspx>



Regional HAI Train-the-Trainer Updates

In February of 2011, DHQP partnered with The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and Avaris to deliver regional training to state health departments and their HAI partners focusing on practical, evidence-based methods for prevention of all six priority HAIs (i.e., MRSA, CDI, CLABSI, CAUTI, SSI, and VAP). Training also included hand hygiene, contact and isolation precautions, environmental cleaning, and antimicrobial stewardship. Part of the three-day program involved reviewing specific evidence-based recommendations applicable to each HAI and discussing implementation strategies and challenges; emerging challenges for infection prevention and control, including non-acute settings and emerging pathogens (Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms or MDROs); and identifying tools and resources to support further knowledge dissemination.



The first five trainings have been attended by 86 trainees representing 28 states. Participants received a learner workbook, tools, references and bibliographies; slide presentations for their own state-based HAI training efforts; and a facilitator guide complete with speaker notes. Approximately 62% of the trainees have been in their positions five years or less with 25% of this sub-group being in their position under one year. Participants included- State Epidemiologists (32%); State HAI Coordinators (24%); and Infection Preventionists (15%).



Participants communicated that they would like to have opportunities to revisit some of the material in preparation for their own state-based HAI training efforts. To meet trainees' requests, DHQP, in collaboration with The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and Avaris, Inc., will produce a **recorded version of the three-day HAI Train-The-Trainer program**. The recorded session will take place during the Region 7 training and will be made available soon after. Please check **the Epi-X HAI Forum** for updates regarding this additional resource!

HAI Infection-Specific Calls

Thank you to everyone for your support of and participation in the 2011 DHQP infection/prevention call series. 2011 was a great year for presentations on everything from AR Stewardship, MDRO prevention in LTC, and outbreak investigations to information on the reduction of CAUTI, SSI, and CDI infections in acute and non-acute settings. We had 12 infection/prevention topics presented in 2011 and on average about a 54% state HD and partner participation.

As we transition to our 2012 prevention discussions, DHQP is refining the series to a quarterly basis. We will continue to highlight key state initiatives and cross-cutting topics including sustainability, collaborative expansion, and partnerships. As always, please continue to provide feedback to your PHA about areas of interest so we can continue to tailor these discussions to fit your ongoing resource and educational needs.



2011 HAI Recovery Act Grantees' Meeting

The third annual HAI Recovery Act Grantees' Meeting was held October 20–21, 2011 at CDC in Atlanta. The meeting brought together more than 200 healthcare-associated infection (HAI) prevention stakeholders. Participants enjoyed an action-packed agenda along with the opportunity to network, collaborate, and share best practices in addressing HAIs.

CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion and additional federal partners provided timely updates and state partners led informative and practical panel discussions. Presentations, which are available on the EPI-X HAI Forum, covered a range of topics relevant to HAI prevention:

- Sustaining efforts to prevent HAIs
- Preventing HAIs in ambulatory care, hemodialysis, and long-term care settings
- Validating HAI data
- Reporting HAI data
- Conducting outbreak investigations
- Addressing emerging HAI antimicrobial resistance issues
- Implementing state-based antibiotic stewardship activities

In attendance were: HAI coordinators from 49 states and 2 territories, CSTE Fellows, QIO partners, other healthcare partners, and representatives from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC); Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL); Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO); Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO); and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA).

To all participants: Thank you for your HAI prevention accomplishments and for making the third annual HAI Recovery Act Grantees' Meeting a partnership success!

