



# Toward Elimination

Newsletter for State Partners in HAI Prevention

June 2010

## State Highlight

Connecticut is embarking on an expanded state HAI planning process that moves beyond hospitals to the full spectrum of healthcare. The current state plan, based on the CDC template, will serve as the state's "interim plan" until the new "HAI Health Improvement Plan" (HIP) is developed.

Meanwhile, CT's legislature recently mandated that a multidisciplinary HAI advisory committee submit surveillance, prevention, and education recommendations to the state health department. This fits well the expanded planning process, as members of the advisory committee will form the core of the HIP development team.

The committee is also impacting existing policy. For example, the only current HAI reporting requirement is that each of the state's 30 acute care hospital

ICUs must report central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs). While these results are currently publicized in aggregate, the advisory committee recently recommended that the data be publicized by specific hospitals.

Connecticut is an Emerging Infection Program (EIP) site, which affords the state opportunities to participate in practical assessments and projects that can link surveillance to prevention, and also inform other programs. For instance, CT presented data from a surveillance project to its MDRO prevention collaborative at a state conference in May. In addition, the CT team actively participates on the dialysis, NHSN, and HAI prevalence study workgroups. You can learn more about Connecticut's HAI program at: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&q=417318>



L to R: Wendy Vance, Ramona Bennett, Kim Zimmerman, Jason Snow, Laura McAllister

## Your PHAs

CDC's DHQP Public Health Advisors (PHAs) serve as the primary point of contact for all American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) HAI program activities. PHAs work closely with Division leaders and scientific staff, while also having responsibility for liaising between the program's cooperative agreements (ELC and EIP) and state HAI /ARRA grantees (specifically state HAI coordinators and other dedicated HAI staff) to help ensure program success. This work includes coordinating with subject matter experts (SMEs) on prevention collaborative calls, assisting SMEs with evaluation and analysis of HAI surveillance and prevention data (especially as it is related to national or state reporting), and coordinating and supporting program and training efforts for states.

## DHQP HAI Workshop at CSTE

DHQP will conduct a pre-conference HAI Workshop June 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in conjunction with the CSTE Annual Conference. Topics include: enhancing HAI surveillance through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), NHSN data validation and analysis; developing/coordinating successful prevention collaboratives; implementing/expanding

state HAI Plans; effectively communicating state HAI prevention efforts; planning/coordinating HAI outbreak response; state lab's role in HAI prevention efforts; and Recovery Act admin issues. Please visit: <http://www.cste.org/dnn/AnnualConference/ConferenceRegistration/tabid/283/Default.aspx> for more information.

## Policy Corner

### CMS Rule Change/NHSN

CMS recently published a regulation proposing changes to the hospital inpatient and long term care prospective payment systems. As part of this new rule, CDC is partnering with CMS to enable healthcare facilities to use NHSN to report quality measure data as part of CMS's pay-for-reporting program. The data, including facility-level data, will be

used to inform the Hospital Compare Web site. Information on the CMS proposed rule is posted at:

<http://www.cms.gov/AcuteInpatientPPS/IPPS/itemdetail.asp?filter-Type=none&filterByDID=0&sortByDID=4&sortOrder=descending&itemID=CMS1234747&intNumPerPage=10>

## Coming Up...

State Users of NHSN Call June 2, 2010 2pm -3pm ET. Your PHA will contact you with call information.

There are no infection specific calls scheduled for June. Stay tuned for more information from your PHA.