



California Mandates Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in Hospitals

Background



A statewide task force was convened to develop a white paper, Recommendations for Reducing Morbidity and Mortality Related to Healthcare-Associated Infections in California, to be presented to the California Department of Public Health

(CDPH). The task force recommended a strategy for HAI prevention and reporting in California, including recommendations for preventing antibiotic resistance in hospitals.

California Senate Bill 739 was subsequently introduced to establish the Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program in CDPH. The bill also mandated that all hospitals develop processes for evaluating the appropriate use of antibiotics and to monitor results using appropriate quality improvement committees.

What Was Done



California Senate Bill 739 did not specifically outline the process of antibiotic stewardship, and implementation varied among hospitals. Thus, a second bill (1311) was signed into law, making California the first state mandating antibiotic stewardship programs for hospitals. Hospital requirements include:

- Adopt and implement an antibiotic stewardship policy in accordance with guidelines established by the federal government and professional organizations, including a process to evaluate the judicious use of antibiotics.
- Develop a physician supervised multidisciplinary antibiotic stewardship committee, subcommittee, or workgroup.
- Appoint to the physician-supervised multidisciplinary antibiotic stewardship committee, subcommittee, or workgroup, at least one physician or pharmacist who is knowledgeable about the subject of antibiotic stewardship through prior training or attendance at continuing education programs, including programs offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), or similar recognized professional organizations.
- Report antimicrobial stewardship program activities to each appropriate hospital committee undertaking clinical quality improvement activities.

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Centers for Disease
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Zoonotic Infectious Diseases





How It Was Accomplished



Hospitals developed and implemented antibiotic stewardship programs. The CDPH Licensing and Certification Program surveys hospitals and other licensed healthcare facilities to ensure compliance with laws and regulations, including those related to antibiotic stewardship. The CDPH HAI Program provides education and technical assistance to hospitals and other healthcare facilities for implementing ASP requirements.

The CDPH HAI Program provides guidance and resources for facilities to implement stewardship programs through the following activities:

- In December 2013, the California HAI Advisory Committee recommended to CDPH 11 elements of a hospital-based ASP. The CDPH HAI Program distributed the 11 recommended ASP elements to all California hospitals and posted the information on the CDPH website.
- In March 2014, the CDPH HAI Program launched the Spotlight on Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs project to allow hospitals to publicly share (via the CDPH website) their progress in implementing the 11 ASP elements. Spotlit hospitals also list the contact information of their ASP leaders to facilitate mentoring and regional collaboration with other facilities. Currently, 80 ASPs (representing 97 hospitals) participate in the Spotlight program. Participating hospitals may update their ASP information on a quarterly basis. The HAI Program continues to recruit Spotlight hospitals during conferences and other educational programs. Hospitals enroll by completing an online survey.
- In February 2015, the HAI Advisory Committee recommended that CDPH promulgate an ASP toolkit to provide examples of local program implementation. The toolkit is posted on the CDPH website, and is also available at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/hai/Documents/ASPToolkitReviewedLC042815FINAL.pdf>
- From January to December 2015, the CDPH HAI Program convened a statewide Hospital ASP Collaborative; over 150 hospitals participated. The collaborative was structured as a year-long learning and action network conducted via monthly webinar sessions. Topics included both CDPH and CDC ASP elements. The format of the sessions alternated between educational presentations and interactive discussions. Webinar presentations are archived on the CDPH website.

Impact



CDC analyzed National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) 2014 Annual Hospital Survey data and reported that the number of acute care hospitals implementing all seven Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs was higher in California (59%) than any other state. The CDPH HAI Program repeated the analysis and found that the proportion of California hospitals reporting implementation of all seven Core Elements increased to 69% in 2015.

