The Collaborative Approach to Prevention of Bloodstream Infections in Dialysis

What Is the Collaborative?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with the Delmarva Foundation, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition, established a prevention collaborative of motivated outpatient dialysis facilities in 2009. The goal of the CDC's Dialysis BSI Prevention Collaborative is to work together to prevent bloodstream infections (BSIs) in hemodialysis and spur a broader interest in preventing infections among the dialysis community.

The Prevention Collaborative is open to freestanding and hospital-based outpatient dialysis facilities across the country. Participating facilities measure BSIs using the dialysis event surveillance module in CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), and are creating and implementing a package of evidence-based practices to prevent these infections.

Why a Prevention Collaborative Model?

The collaborative approach leads to interactions that facilitate the recognition and dissemination of good ideas between participants. This approach has led to major BSI reductions in other healthcare settings.

What are the Benefits of Joining?

In addition to sharing best practices, Collaborative members also:

- Have the opportunity to network with other members through in-person meetings and monthly Collaborative calls to discuss infection prevention topics and activities which contribute to the design and implementation of interventions
- Get input on specific challenges to prevention from dialysis and BSI prevention experts
- Gain familiarity with analysis of NHSN data for their dialysis center and receive support for NHSN use and infection measurement from experts at CDC
- Describe Collaborative efforts at regional and national meetings and serve as role models for others
- Have support from experts in implementation science

What Current Members Are Saying About the Collaborative

"It's exciting to learn from others and develop best practices that allow us to hopefully make a positive impact on the overall care and outcomes for our dialysis patients."

– Kathy Morrissette, R.N., R.V.T.,
Maine General Medical Center

"We at CDC are very interested in the success of this collaborative. We hope to use these centers as an example of what is possible with regard to BSI prevention among dialysis patients. We are convinced that a collaborative of this nature will help lead toward better infection control practices in dialysis centers nationwide."

– John A. Jernigan, M.D., M.S.,
Director of the Office of Prevention Research and Evaluation,
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP),
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

How to Join

Those interested in learning more about becoming a member of the Prevention Collaborative can visit online at: http://www.makingdialysissafe.org/home.aspx. You can also contact Drs. Priti Patel or Alex Kallen at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) via email (cdc-info@cdc.gov) for additional information.

Additional Resources

- CDC Dialysis page:
http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/settings/dialysis/dialysis_settings.html
- CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network:
http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/psc_da_de.html

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Healthcare Quality and Promotion

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