Successful Strategies for Infection Prevention in Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes

Introduction and Welcome

Continuum of Care

Acute Care Facility
State Health Departments
Outpatient/Ambulatory Facility
Long Term Care Facility
Home Care
Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)

- **Definition:**
  - Infections that patients/residents acquire during the course of receiving treatment for other conditions within a healthcare setting
  - Nosocomial infections - past language

- **Categorized by:**
  - **Pathogen**
    - Example: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
  - **Procedure-associated**
    - Example: surgical site infection (SSI)
  - **Device-associated**
    - Example: catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI)

Evolving Role of Health Department in Infection Prevention

- The health department works with many types of facilities including hospitals, nursing homes (NHs), assisted living facilities (ALFs), and other healthcare/residential settings

- **Local health departments (LHD)**
  - LHD epidemiologists and communicable disease (CD) nurses have built relationships with facilities in their community by:
    - Receiving communicable disease and outbreak information
    - Providing outbreak and infection prevention practice guidance
    - Helping provide education and resources
Evolving Role of Health Department in Infection Prevention

- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
  - VDH nurse epidemiologist had focused on HAIs
    - Guidance for HAI outbreaks and infection prevention practices to facilities and local health department staff
    - Hepatitis B/C outbreaks
    - Blood glucose monitoring practices
    - Educational opportunities for NHs, ALFs, and inspectors
  - HAI-related reporting regulations
    - Reporting began in 2008 for central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) in adult intensive care units in acute care hospitals
  - HAI Advisory Committee established

Why and how has VDH’s role changed regarding infection prevention?
Impetus for Formal Virginia HAI Program

• Federal movement on HAI prevention
  ▫ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS)
    • Reduced payment for a growing number of HAIs
    • Use pay-for-reporting and pay-for-performance structure
  ▫ Fiscal year 2009 Omnibus spending bill
    • Required states to develop HAI prevention plans
  ▫ American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
    • Provided money to states for HAI prevention
  ▫ Health and Human Services (HHS) Action Plan on HAIs

• Healthy People 2020 defines national health objectives
  ▫ HAI - new topic area

• HAI legislation increasing in other states and in Virginia

Current HAI Program Goals

• Funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
• Program goals
  ▫ Build HAI program capacity - create HAI Program and hire staff in the state health department
    • Hired HAI Program Coordinator and HAI Epidemiologist
  ▫ Enhance surveillance
    • Focus on acute care facilities in 2009-2011
      • Validate central line-associated bloodstream data collected in CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
      • Pilot surgical site infection (SSI) surveillance through NHSN
  ▫ Form prevention collaboratives and provide education
    • Acute care collaborative and nursing home collaborative
Impetus for Shifting Focus to ALFs and NHs

Ultimate goal: To improve patient/resident outcomes across the continuum of care

• Virginia
  ▫ Outbreaks in ALFs and NHs
  ▫ Strongly suggested by acute care infection preventionists (IPs) when the HAI program first explored Virginia’s infection prevention needs
  ▫ Virginia ALF and NH infection prevention needs assessment
    • Identified need for education and sharing of information
  ▫ Increasing interest and support of Virginia ALFs, NHs, and long-term care organizations/partners

• Nationally
  ▫ CDC, CMS, and HHS
  ▫ Developing guidance and tools for long-term care facilities

Future Projects for VDH HAI Program

• Continue to disseminate toolkit (binder / DVD):
  ▫ Standardized set of infection prevention resources
  ▫ Provide to ALF and NH staff, applicable local health department staff, and applicable licensing facility staff
• Nursing home prevention collaborative
• Infection prevention needs assessment report
• Website development
• Continue to strengthen partnerships between the health department, all healthcare facilities, and the public
Partnering with the Health Department: How the Health Department Can Help

- Disease reporting
- Disease and infection prevention-related questions, including resident transfer to/from your facility
- Outbreak investigation:
  - Help identify the source of the problem and control the spread of disease
  - Collect information about ill and well persons
  - Coordinate specimen testing with state lab
  - Recommend steps to stop outbreak and reduce the risk of disease

Partnering with the Health Department: Ongoing Availability

- How to contact:
  - Call local health department for city/county in which your facility is located
  - [www.vdh.virginia.gov/lhd](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/lhd)
- When to contact:
  - Suspect or confirm resident has a reportable disease
  - Suspect an outbreak may be occurring
    - Outbreak: greater than expected level of disease activity
    - Question about a disease-related topic
Virginia ALF and NH Outbreaks

- Norovirus
  - 78% of ALF outbreaks, 69% of NH outbreaks
- Influenza
  - 9% of ALF outbreaks, 13% of NH outbreaks
- Examples of other conditions causing outbreaks:
  - *Acinetobacter, Clostridium difficile*, hepatitis B, rhinovirus, rotavirus, scabies
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Toolkit

How to Access Additional Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov

- Websites, guidelines, articles on:
  - Clinical guidelines and surveillance definitions
  - Disease-specific guidance (bloodborne pathogens, norovirus, tuberculosis, influenza, multidrug-resistant organisms, urinary tract infections)
  - Environmental cleaning and disinfection
  - Hand hygiene
  - Immunizations and employee health
  - Isolation precautions
  - Licensure and reporting regulations
A Collaborative Effort

Thank you!

Questions?
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