SYNERGY: COMBINING EFFORTS FOR HAI PREVENTION

October 2011

News from the Virginia Department of Health's Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program

Volume 2, Issue 10

Edited by: Andrea Alvarez

Notes from VDH

We hope you all had a chance to celebrate International Infection Prevention Week (Oct 16-22). Please feel free to pass along any fun and innovative ways your facility celebrated and we can share with others for next year.

In our ongoing efforts to maintain up-to-date contact information of infection preventionists and facilities, please let us know if there is turnover of the IP position and who the interim or new IP is, if known. Similarly, if the facility changes its name, please let us know as well.

Congratulations to *Synergy* for winning an award for Best Newsletter at the annual HAI Grantee Meeting in Atlanta! We hope that you continue to find our communication to be informative and useful!

And lastly, we hope to see many of you on November 10th at the acute care/long-term care training at the Hilton Short Pump in Richmond. It will be a great way to wrap up the ARRA grant and share lessons learned from our surveillance and prevention projects!

CDC HAI Grantee Meeting Recap and Infection Prevention Initiative for Cancer Patients

On October 20th and 21st, Andrea Alvarez (HAI Program Coordinator) and Dana Burshell (HAI Epidemiologist) attended the Third Annual Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthcare-Associated Infections Grantees' Meeting in Atlanta, GA. This meeting brought together HAI program staff from state health departments with CDC and representatives from other national agencies/organizations to share successes from the past year and to discuss how to sustain these efforts after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds end in December 2011.

There was a greater focus on infection prevention in non-acute settings this year compared to last year, with presentations on state and federal HAI activities in the ambulatory care, long-term care, and dialysis facility settings.

Two presentations discussed surgical site infection validation projects conducted in New York and New England. Virginia facilities will benefit from learning from the lessons learned from these other states as they conduct SSI surveillance to comply with CMS reporting requirements.

The role of communication was highlighted during one of the sessions. Future communication efforts from CDC include a new dialysis website, enhanced outbreak tools, a patient notification toolkit, and support for reporting to CMS.

CDC also unveiled a new initiative to help reduce the risk of developing infections during chemotherapy treatment. A variety of resources for patients and healthcare providers including a basic infection control and prevention plan for outpatient oncology settings, fact sheets, and posters. For more information, go to: **www.cdc.gov/cancer/preventinfections**

In this issue:

Notes from VDH	**1**
Grantee Meeting Recap & Infection Prevention for Cancer Patients	**1**
NHSN Updates	**2**
Infection Prevention for Inspectors Training	**3**
SSI Pilot Complete!	**3**
Successful Strategies Training - Oct 20	**3**
Conference Brochure - Nov 10	**4, 5**

Upcoming Events:

Nov 2: UTI panel for nursing home collaborative participants, Virginia Beach

Nov 10: *The Epidemic of Infection Prevention* - VDH/ APIC-VA training for acute care and nursing homes, Richmond

Nov 14-20: National Get Smart About Antibiotics Week

Nov 15: SSI mini-grant documentation of use of funds due to Dr. Barbara Brown at VHHA

Contact:

Andrea Alvarez,
HAI Program Coordinator
with questions / comments:
804-864-8097

NHSN Updates

NHSN v6.5 was released Monday, Oct. 24th and includes:

- Queued generation of datasets—Users can now press "generate new datasets" and navigate away from the page until it has completed.
- For facilities developing/using clinical document architecture (CDA), notify NHSN CDA at nhsncda@cdc.gov along with any questions or communication about the import function.
- In instances where you are unable to report accurate data (ex. do not have the denominator data), you may choose to remove the event/location/procedure from your monthly reporting plan. However, be aware that may take you out of compliance with state and/or federal reporting requirements.

Other resources

- AJIC/NHSN case studies: VDH has copies and can share Cases 1-4 . Case 5 is available at: **www.surveymonkey.com/s/AJIC-NHSN-Case5** and case 6 is available at: **www.surveymonkey.com/s/AJIC-NHSN-Case6**

VDH Group User Template:

On October 12th, the VDH NHSN User Group transitioned from a facility-generated confer rights template to a VDH-generated confer rights template. What this means is that every facility currently in the VDH NHSN User Group (all facilities with an adult ICU) must accept the template by October 31st, 2011, to be in compliance with state HAI reporting requirements. This process will be similar for all groups/organizations requesting your facility to share NHSN data. In the future, this will make it easier for facilities to stay in compliance even if regulations change because it is the responsibility of the organization to maintain their conferred rights template. If any changes are made in the future, you will have the option to review the template and ask questions before you accept the revised template.

Also note that communications from VDH about NHSN will now primarily be sent via NHSN. Please update your NHSN contact(s) information at your earliest convenience to assure the appropriate person(s) receive messages.

Other NHSN version 6.5 changes	**To find out more, go to:**
NHSN Alerts (for 2009-current in-plan data only) Report no events and procedures	NHSN Resource Library —> Patient Safety Component Resources —> "Guide to the Patient Safety Component Alerts"
Component-specific variable reference lists Updated ICD9 codes mapped to NHSN	NHSN Resource Library —> NHSN Codes and Variables
Editable location field for summary data	Click the "Edit" button of your summary data records

	Reporting	**Enrollment**
Healthcare worker influenza vaccination	2013 for acute care hospitals, outpatient surgery, and ambulatory surgery centers	"Summary Data – Influenza Vaccination Quarterly Summary" is under review and will be revised. This option will be available again no later than August, 2012 and will be accompanied by revisions to the application, protocol, instructions, report form, and training materials. The individual-level HPS (Healthcare Personnel Safety) influenza vaccination reporting option will remain available during this time.
Outpatient Dialysis Facilities Direct questions to CMS at esrdqip@cms.hhs.gov	Requires at least 3 consecutive months of dialysis events in 2012 (pending final rule—expected in Nov 2011)	1)Enroll with a unique NHSN org ID because NHSN will consider this facility type separate from other facility types (like an associated acute care hospital). 2)Enroll as an 'AMB-HEMO – Hemodialysis Center' facility type 3) Have correct CMS Certification Number (CCN) in NHSN
Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals (LTACHs)	"Long term care hospitals" begin reporting CLABSIs and CAUTIs in all inpatient locations starting Oct 2012 (pending final rule)	1) Enroll in NHSN **after** the NHSN release in January 2012. 2) LTACHs should be enrolled with a unique NHSN org ID because NHSN will consider this facility type separate from other facility types (like an associated acute care hospital). 3) Complete new LTACH annual facility survey
Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs)	IRFs begin reporting CAUTIs in all inpatient locations starting Oct 2012	1) Enroll in NHSN **after** the NHSN release in January 2012. 2) IRFs should be enrolled with a unique NHSN org ID because NHSN will consider this facility type separate from other facility types (like an associated acute care hospital). 3) Complete new IRF annual facility survey

Infection Prevention for Inspectors Training—Oct 4th

The *Successful Strategies* presentations for long-term care were modified slightly for the inspector audience and were presented to both VDH Office of Licensure and Certification (OLC) and Department of Social Services (DSS) inspectors by Andrea Alvarez (VDH) and Lajuana Jordan (Medical Facilities of America). Attendees were given the *Successful Strategies* toolkits and were informed that both long-term care facilities and local health department communicable disease staff also should have a copy and had the option to a receive similar training.

This training was part of the VDH HAI program's efforts to provide inspectors a deeper understanding of infection prevention practices and common compliance gaps, highlighted by Lajuana's facility staff perspective, as well as improve the standardization of infection prevention expectations between healthcare facilities, licensing organizations, and the health department.

Communication between the VDH HAI team and the licensing agencies has been both positive and mutually beneficial. The training was well received and has encouraged a potential follow-up session to help inspectors apply appropriate infection prevention practices to themselves that may be helpful to both them and facility staff during the survey process.

Surgical Site Infection Surveillance Pilot Complete!

Many thanks to the 18 hospitals that participated in our surgical site infection (SSI) surveillance pilot and data presentation collaborative. The project wrapped up at the end of August with a final conference call and the sharing of different ways to visually represent and discuss the standardized infection ratio (SIR). During the six months under the surveillance, the pilot facilities completed 2,388 pilot procedures (coronary artery bypass graft, hip replacement, or knee replacement) and reported 25 infections, for a SIR of 0.72, meaning that the pilot facilities identified 28% fewer SSIs than expected based on the national experience—great job! During the *Epidemic of Infection Prevention* training on November 10th, there will be a breakout session on SSI surveillance that will highlight some of the lessons learned from this project, including the time and effort involved, surveillance definition FAQs, and tips for creating files to import data directly into NHSN. At the beginning of the pilot, no facilities could automatically upload data and by the end, 9 facilities were able to. A final report summarizing the pilot and the data presentation collaborative will be released later this year.

Successful Strategies Training in Eastern Region—Oct 20th

An additional opportunity for long-term care infection prevention training was offered in eastern Virginia at Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital's Health Education Center on October 20th. *Successful Strategies for Infection Prevention in Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes* is a free training program for assisted living and nursing home staff as well as local health department staff that was offered across the state in May and June of this year. Nearly 500 attendees including assisted living facility and nursing home direct care providers, and facility administrators have participated in this endeavor to promote best practices in infection prevention for the long-term care population.

The training on October 20th was organized by regional epidemiologists Ana Colon and Kelly MacLaurin and co-sponsored by the VDH and the Virginia Health Care Association (VHCA) in partnership with Coastal Virginia Infection Preventionists and Epidemiologists (CVIPE), the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Virginia chapter (APIC-VA), the Virginia Assisted Living Association (VALA), the Virginia Association of Nonprofit Homes for the Aging (VANHA), and VHQC, the state quality improvement organization.

Training topics included an overview of infection prevention, successful strategies on infection prevention implementation, collecting and using information to track infections, disease outbreak identification, reporting and management were highlights of the presentations. Each attendee received an educational toolkit and editable DVD for use in their facility.

Register

- By November 4th
- On TRAIN https://va.train.org
  Search by title: "The Epidemic of Infection Prevention: Pass It On" or by course ID: 1028924

Contacts

Jennifer Reece for **general questions**

- JReece@vaqio.sdps.org
- 540-525-9202

or

Dana Burshell for **registration questions**

- Dana.Burshell@vdh.virginia.gov
- 804-864-7550

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at a reduced price ($129.00)

Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa at Short Pump
12042 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23233
Phone: 804-362-3600

Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa E Brochure

When registering at the hotel, please mention the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Other Hotels Available:

Hilton Garden Inn
4050 Cox Road
Richmond, VA
804-521-2901

Aloft Richmond West
3939 Duckling Drive
Glen Allen, VA
804-433-1888

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment

APIC VIRGINIA

The Epidemic of Infection Prevention: *Pass it On*

November 10th, 2011
Registration - 8:00 AM
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa at Short Pump,
Richmond, VA
804-362-3600

Program Agenda

Audience:
Acute care facilities and nursing homes – infection preventionists, quality improvement staff, and/or facility administrators

8:00 Registration opens

9:00 – 9:30
Introduction
- Andrea Alvarez, Virginia Department of Health

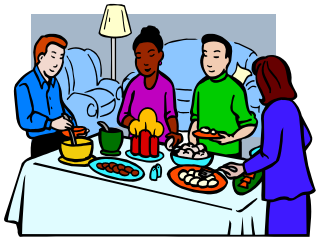
9:30 – 10:45
Collaborating for prevention (panel)
- Moderator: Millie Lavaway, Halifax Regional Health System
- Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (Gail Rudder, Sentara CarePlex Hospital)
- VHQC Medical Quality Improvement Focus-Healthcare Associated Infections and More (Dr. Sallie Cook, Chief Medical Officer, VHQC)
- VDH/VHCA Urinary Tract Infection Nursing Home Collaborative (David Abraham, Beth Sholom Village)

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 11:45
Bridging the information gap across the continuum of care
- Coordinating with the Community for Outbreak Response (Dr. Lillian Peake, Thomas Jefferson Health District)
- The Key To Successful Transition of Care – A Team Approach (Jane Lewis, Danville Regional Medical Center)

11:45 – 12:15
Building a business case for infection prevention
- Dr. Thomas Kerkering, Carilion Clinic and the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

12:15-1:15 Lunch



AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:15 – 2:30
Breakout sessions: HAI surveillance and the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

Acute care breakout:
NHSN nuts and bolts—preparing for SSI reporting
- Dana Burshell, Virginia Department of Health
- APIC-VA Infection Preventionists

Nursing home breakout:
How surveillance can drive prevention
- Martha Harris, Inova Fair Oaks Hospital

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 4:00
Breakout sessions: Special topics

Acute care breakout:
Results from SSI pilot and mini-grant program
- Andrea Alvarez, Virginia Department of Health
- Jacqueline Butler, Sentara Norfolk General Hospital

Nursing home breakout:
Special infection prevention topics for nursing homes
- Carol Jamerson, Virginia Department of Health
- Dottie Torrey, American HealthCare

Mileage reimbursement available!

- **One** (car) per facility
- Bring a copy of directions (showing mileage from facility to Hilton Short Pump) upon arrival at registration desk (ex. Mapquest or Google Maps)
- You will be asked to fill out an expense form at the conference to attach the directions/mileage sheet.
- All mileage reimbursement forms must be received **NO LATER THAN November 17th in order to receive payment.**