The Arizona Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Advisory Committee continues to hold bimonthly public meetings at the Arizona Department of Health. Its mission is to reduce the number and impact of HAIs in Arizona by convening a multidisciplinary group of partners from across the state to 1. standardize best practices for monitoring and preventing HAIs 2. educate the public and healthcare providers on effective methods to reduce HAIs, and 3. proactively address emerging HAI issues. The committee guides the activities of five subcommittees: Prevention, Long Term Care, Training and Education, Antimicrobial Stewardship and Surveillance. Please visit the HAI Advisory Committee website to learn more.

The committee welcomes Anne Millkamp and Brenda Mastopietro as its newest members.

HAI Prevention Strategies Subcommittee Conducts Needs Assessment

The ADHS HAI Prevention Strategies Subcommittee is conducting a needs assessment across the healthcare infection prevention continuum.

Please take a minute and tell us how we can best assist your facility in its infection prevention efforts.

ADHS HAI Advisory Committee Activities Abound

HAI Long Term Care Subcommittee Creates Transfer Tool

The ADHS HAI Advisory Committee participated in the No Place Like Home Campaign to reduce hospital readmissions through the creation of transfer tools to improve infection control communication between facilities. After researching potential ways for acute and skilled nursing facilities to communicate about patient infections, the Long Term Care Subcommittee recommends that healthcare facilities draw attention to an infectious process for any patient by implementing one of these transfer forms.

Survey: What types of tools, resources, education, technical assistance or other help would be most beneficial to you?
Education and Training Subcommittee provides education and training about healthcare associated infections and prevention of HAIs to applicable persons and healthcare disciplines. The T&E Subcommittee also hosts International Infection Prevention Week in conjunction with the Association for Professionals in Infection Prevention (APIC), Grand Canyon Chapter.

Check out this year’s Infection Prevention event - the “Shot’s Aren’t Scary” Flashmob YouTube video!

Antimicrobial Stewardship and Surveillance Subcommittees Develop Resources

The ADHS HAI Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee is a group of medical, microbiology and nursing professionals dedicated to providing education on antibiotic use both to providers and the public. The Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee is currently working on an antimicrobial stewardship toolkit for healthcare providers and a resource list for providers and the public.

The HAI Surveillance Subcommittee is comprised of two dozen professionals from across Arizona who work together to study and improve healthcare associated infections (HAI) surveillance activities in Arizona. The subcommittee is currently working on a business case model to present HAI data to healthcare facility leadership.

ADHS Licensing Corner

A special thanks to Richard Young (Long Term Care Licensing), Cara Christ (Licensing Assistant Director and ADHS CMO), Kathy McCanna (Medical Licensing) and Connie Belden (Medical Licensing) for supporting the Advisory Committee.
**ADHS Signs Data Use Agreement with CDC**

ADHS recently signed a data use agreement with CDC that will allow ADHS to see facility level data. The data will be used for healthcare-associated infection surveillance and prevention. ADHS has worked with CDC to ensure that the data will not be released publicly. Arizona Statutes that protect the data from being made available to the public include: Arizona Revised Statutes § 36-107, Arizona Revised Statutes § 36-136(H)(11), Arizona Revised Statutes § 36-661 et seq., and Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-4172.

There are two possible ways for a healthcare facility to opt out of the data use agreement: A facility could stop entering data into NHSN, or a facility can remove select events from their monthly reporting plans. It is important to note that only data collected through surveillance that is included in a facility's monthly reporting plans will be shared with CMS and will be eligible for reimbursement. Helpful website: [http://www.cdc.gov/hai/surveillance/DUA](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/surveillance/DUA).

**ICP Highlight: Diana Rolland, Flagstaff Medical Center**

How long have you been working in infection control?
I have been working in infection control for 19 years. My facility has 287 beds.

Who comprises the infection control team at your facility?
Currently, we have an ID physician, the director (me), an RN who is an ICP and a brand new microbiologist.

What are the strengths of your infection control program?
I think the fact that I make daily rounds. The new microbiologist will be overseeing critical care. She attends the unit rounds in that ward. Afterwards, my RN is over everything in OR. I found it to be easier when it is segmented, rather than every one of us trying to do everything.

We also have this system called Bioquell, 30% hydrogen peroxide mist which will kill C. diff. We do a daily bleach clean and a terminal bleach clean on certain rooms. We have seen a 6% reduction.

How much interaction do you have with patients?
This is something we have been doing the last couple years. We actually go and visit the patients and talk to them about hand hygiene. All their visitors are required to wash their hands. Which allows my office coordinator and I to have quite a bit of interaction with the patients.

Which outcome measures do you look at to gauge the success of your infection control program?
We compare hand hygiene against C-diff. We also have This is something we have been doing the last couple years.
News and Events

Check out our new ADHS HAI calendar page to stay updated on ADHS news, Advisory Committee and Subcommittee meetings, APIC meetings, and HAI-related meetings hosted by our partners.

Coming up:

- November 15, 2012: HAI Advisory Committee Meeting (ADHS) Please contact Vinita.Oberoi@azdhs.gov
- December 3, 2012: APIC Annual Conference registration opens
- December 4, 2012: NHSN Training- Hosted by HSAG and other members of the AZ Infection Prevention Community. Please contact Charlie Chapin at cchapin@hsag.com
- December 13, 2012: APIC Grand Canyon Chapter Meeting. Please contact Lynn Carosella at lcarosella@shc.org

CDC Resources

⇒ It is Get Smart about Antibiotics Week! (November 12-18) Learn more about antibiotic safety by visiting the CDC webpage.
⇒ Explore NHSN functionality by visiting the CDC NHSN demo page here. In the NHSN Demo, a user can view, add, edit, and analyze data. Receive training on NHSN today.
⇒ Read about injection safety and the CDC’s One and Only Campaign here. Read a recent MMWR concerning an injection safety investigation in Arizona.
⇒ Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) are a serious threat to public health. Check out CDC’s 2012 CRE toolkit.
⇒ Learn about the January 2013 HCP influenza vaccination NHSN reporting requirements for acute care facilities.
⇒ Read the latest on the multistate fungal meningitis investigations.
⇒ Explore CDC’s Long Term Care NHSN Reporting Component.

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Do you have an HAI outbreak-related question?
Please contact:
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From Left: Patty Gray, Clare Kioski, Vinita Oberoi, Teresa Horan and Charlie Chapin at the CDC NHSN Training in October 2012