

**Healthcare Associated Infections  
Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2013



*Present:* Ray Andrews, Lauren Backman, Laurie Brentlinger, Louise-Marie Dembry, Carol Dietz, Brenda Grant, Diana Kelly, Cathy Ligi, Alessandra Litro, Richard Melchreit, Julie Petrellis, Deborah Quetti, Jean Rexford, Richard Rodriguez, Douglas Waite,

*Phone Attendees:* Jeannine Childree, Dale Cunningham, Nancy Dupont, Marie Sudsbury

*Next meeting:* Wednesday May 1, 2013 at the Connecticut Hospital Association, Wallingford, CT

---

**Call to Order:** Lauren Backman called the meeting to order at 9:05 am

**Review and approval of prior advisory Committee meeting minutes (02/06/13):** A motion was made to accept the minutes from the 02/06/13. The minutes were accepted.

**Fungal Contamination of Compounded Pharmacy Products Outbreak:** A Connecticut Hospital discovered floating mold in intravenous drugs that prompted a mass recall. At least thirteen hospitals in Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania received the contaminated intravenous drugs and all materials distributed by the compounding pharmacy, Med Prep Consulting Inc. No sick patients were reported. 1300 people were notified for possible exposure. This contamination event comes after a multistate outbreak of fungal meningitis among patients who received contaminated preservative-free MPA steroid injections from New England Compounding Center (NECC). 39 Connecticut patients were exposed in one facility and no cases have been reported to date in Connecticut. Nationally there were 13,000 exposed, there were 733 ill patients and 53 deaths. Compounding pharmacy safety continues to be an issue of national importance and is being closely monitored by FDA and Congress.

**Update on Data Validation:** External validation will continue in 2013 and activities will include: CAUTI, CLABSI, SSI: COLO & HYST, CLABSI/CAUTI denominator data: device days and patient days, SSI denominator data: # procedures, surgeon, ASA, wound class, procedure duration, and validate location mapping. DPH has developed a protocol to review the data. Two experienced temporary nurses will assist the DPH with chart reviews from April 1, 2013 – July 31, 2013.

**NHSN Review of CAUTI Definition and Protocol:** NHSN is reviewing catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) surveillance definitions and protocols. NHSN has identified a group of subject matter experts including microbiologists, infection preventionists, hospital epidemiologists and state health department staff. The CT DPH will be on the panel of subject matter experts. Conference calls and reviews of the definitions are currently taking place and will continue to do so for the next few months. Any changes to NHSN for CAUTI definitions will take place in 2014 but a definite date is not determined.

**Education Activities:** Lauren Backman spoke of two trainings in April for Ventilator-associated Events (VAE). She reviewed the NHSN definition as well as what constitutes an event. CHA will have a webinar on VAE on May 30, 2013. Lauren will be the trainer.

**CMS Reporting Requirements via NHSN:** Lauren presented a chart that will be sent to the HAI Committee regarding reporting requirements. CMS has specified that inpatient acute care facilities report MRSA bacteremia and *C. difficile* LabID Event beginning in January 2013. The

rule also specifies that acute care facilities must monitor and report summary counts of healthcare worker influenza vaccinations beginning in 2013 using NHSN.

**Continued Discussion NHSN “Required” or “Optional” fields for CLABSI, CAUTIs and SSIs:** Lauren Backman conducted research on NHSN “Required” or “Optional” fields for CLABSI, CAUTIs and SSIs. The discussion was tabled due to the fact that Lauren has not been able to speak to the state infection preventionists due to changes and rescheduling of meetings. Lauren will report the overall discussion at the next Committee meeting.

**Review of draft letter for antimicrobial stewardship:** The committee reviewed the draft letter prepared by DPH from the Commissioner promoting antibiotic stewardship and awareness. The committee had suggestions for changes to the letter. DPH will make changes to the letter and get the Commissioner's signature. The letter will be sent to various medical societies and websites for distribution.

A committee member suggested that the HAI committee use other methods to reach consumers. It was suggested the Committee review a series of YouTube videos that highlight a fun way to look at antimicrobial stewardship. The Committee agreed email links to various videos and determine which ones were best to place on the website.

**Committee Vacancy:** DPH staff drafted a memo to the Commissioner with a recommendation to fill the public member vacancy on the committee. The memo has been sent to the commissioner for her decision.

**Prevention Collaborative Update (Qualidigm):** Qualidigm reported on a collaborative CDC funded project that they are working on with DPH. Qualidigm is working with six “Communities of Care” in our state to develop and implement antimicrobial stewardship programs based on their community-specific needs with CDC funds from now until July 31, 2012. A summary of survey results was discussed. The collaborative is underway and the wrap up session is scheduled for July 2013.

Qualidigm is also working on a *Clostridium difficile* (CDI) prevention collaborative as well. Twenty-seven long term care facilities are participating. The collaborative will look to improve initial identification of CDI cases, staff knowledge deficits, communication of newly diagnosed CDI cases, isolation signage, and family and resident communication.

**HAI Annual Report:** The DPH reported on the data that will be presented in the annual legislative report. DPH decided to give summary data in the report and have a more detailed breakdown of the data on the DPH website for hospitals and consumers to review.

**Other Items:** The Committee discussed supporting a letter sent by APIC to support federal funding.

*The motion was made: The HAI Advisory Committee will sign a letter of support APIC for a federal bill to congress that supports federal funding for NHSN and the Prevention Epicenters Program in the fiscal year 2014.*

The motion was unanimously accepted (6 yeas, 0 nays). The DPH will check to determine if there is any issue of conflict of interest or other issues from the DPH perspective if the Committee supported the APIC letter.

The next HAI Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am at Connecticut Hospital Association in Wallingford, CT.