

Focus on Infection Control

In this age of pandemics, “superbugs,” and increasing concern about antimicrobial resistance, a strong Infection Control program is a critical element of quality care delivery. The World Health Organization recently urged increased preventive efforts, including strict adherence to infection control measures and surveillance for antimicrobial resistance.¹ Hospitals and other healthcare providers are urged to follow the steps outlined in the CDC’s Campaign to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance in Healthcare Settings²:

PREVENT INFECTION.

- Educate staff and patients on infection control.
- Give influenza/pneumonia vaccine to at-risk patients before discharge.
- Set an example by getting the flu vaccine annually.

 **Patient Flyer: 15 Steps to Reduce Risk** <http://tiny.cc/15reducerisk>

 **Hand Hygiene Guidelines** <http://tiny.cc/hhfact>

DIAGNOSE AND TREAT INFECTION EFFECTIVELY.

Target the pathogen, and consult appropriate experts for complicated infections.

 **Appropriate Antimicrobial Use** <http://tiny.cc/hospinf>

USE ANTIMICROBIALS WISELY.

- Engage in local antimicrobial control efforts.
- Treat infection, not contamination.

 **Antibiotic Stewardship** <http://tiny.cc/antibioticsp>
(Medscape login required; registration is free)

 **IDSA/SHEA Guidelines** <http://tiny.cc/infguidelines>

PREVENT TRANSMISSION.

Isolate the pathogen using standard infection control precautions, and break the chain of contagion by practicing hand hygiene and staying home when you are sick.

 **Hand Washing Poster** <http://tiny.cc/hwashposter>

 **WHO Save Lives: Clean Your Hands** <http://tiny.cc/WHOsavelives>

Each year:

- Nearly 2 million U.S. patients get an infection in a hospital; about 90,000 die as a result.
- More than 70% of the bacteria that cause hospital-acquired infections are resistant to at least one of the drugs most commonly used to treat them.

Patients infected with drug-resistant organisms are more likely to:

- Have longer hospital stays.
- Require treatment with second- or third-choice drugs that may be less effective, more toxic, and/or more expensive.

Source: CDC. Campaign to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance in Healthcare Settings. Available at: www.cdc.gov. Accessed September 20, 2010.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

• **APIC/SHEA LTC Guidelines**
<http://tiny.cc/LTCic>

• **CDC/HICPAC Guidelines**
<http://tiny.cc/CDCic>

• **CDC Hand Hygiene Video**
<http://tiny.cc/hhvideo>

• **MRSA Fact Sheet**
<http://tiny.cc/MRSAbug>

• **“Bug Off” Multiple Choice Test**
<http://tiny.cc/bugofftest>

• **Hand Washing Word Puzzle**
<http://tiny.cc/hwpuzzle>

1. WHO. WHO urges countries to take measure to combat antimicrobial resistance. August 20, 2010. Available at: www.who.int. Accessed September 15, 2010; 2. CDC. 12 Steps to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance Among Surgical Patients and 12 Steps to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance Among Hospitalized Adults. Available at: www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/healthcare/patients.htm. Accessed September 20, 2010.



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