

Healthcare-associated Infection

Definition: Healthcare-associated infections are infections that patients acquire during the course of receiving treatment for other conditions within a healthcare setting (CDC).

Problem: Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) is a problem nationally and in Maine. It is one of the ten leading causes of death in the U.S. HAI includes central-line-associated bloodstream infection (CLAB), urinary tract infection (UTI), surgical site infection (SSI), ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP), and the issues of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO), including methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), clostridium difficile infection, and vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE). These three major drug-resistant organisms cause 35,000 HAI annually with 12,000 deaths, at a cost of over \$5 billion (CDC). In Pennsylvania, patients with HAI have increased length of stay (4.5 vs. 20.6 days), mortality (2.3% vs. 12.9%), and cost (\$31,000 vs. \$185,000).

Goals: The goals of HAI intervention strategies are to reduce the rate of HAI, especially MDRO, and increase compliance with known prevention strategies.

Current performance measurement: Currently, Maine Quality Forum, through the MHDO, measures hospitals' compliance with strategies for the prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia and central line-associated bloodstream infection in high-risk patient populations and the incidence of central line-associated bloodstream infection. Also collected are data on appropriate antibiotic usage in perioperative patients. The Maine Quality Forum and MHDO have been meeting regularly with infection-control personnel from Maine hospitals to discuss these data.

Current data required by MQF is summarized the following table:

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- Sponsor antibiotic stewardship projects
- Develop new and emerging performance measures.

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