

Infectious Diseases-HAI

Assignment Description:

The Fellow will be assigned primarily to work with healthcare associated infections. This will include outreach and surveillance with the county's 100 acute care hospitals, 450 skilled nursing facilities, 250 ambulatory surgical centers, outpatient facilities, etc.

Day-to-Day Activities:

The Fellow will be available to provide consultations regarding healthcare associated infections, participate in HAI meetings and conferences (including hospital infection control committee meetings), investigate outbreaks in both healthcare and community settings, and develop other special projects. The Fellow will work with the California Department of Public Health's Healthcare Associated Infections Program's two infection preventionists assigned to Los Angeles to assist licensed healthcare facilities with enrollment, data entry, and validation of the National Healthcare Safety Network.

Potential Projects:

- Consult on, validate, and analyze National Healthcare Safety Network's state-mandated HAI data from all acute care hospitals
- Outreach to ambulatory surgical centers regarding HAIs, including evaluation of recent surveys conducted by the State
- Assess and evaluate hospital antibiotic stewardship programs currently mandated by the State
- Evaluate the carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* passive surveillance system started June 1, 2010 in Los Angeles County
- Review and promote safe injection practices

Preparedness Role:

The Fellow will receive training in Incident Command as other county workers do, and participate in any emergency response that may arise, including Point of Dispensing clinics for vaccination or medication distribution. The fellow will be expected to participate in scheduled disaster drills and exercises as appropriate.

Assignment Location: Los Angeles, CA

Primary Mentor: Dawn Terashita, MD, MPH
Medical Epidemiologist
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Secondary Mentor: Laurene Mascola, MD, MPH
Chief, Acute Communicable Disease Control
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health