

**New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health Services
CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship**

Activities

The Fellow's primary activities will focus on New Hampshire's healthcare-associated infection surveillance and response. The fellow will analyze data from surveillance systems to track the occurrence of healthcare-associated infections in New Hampshire and implement educational strategies to prevent them. The fellow will also interpret statewide data to inform policy and procedures for use in planning disease prevention activities and interventions. Specific activities related to healthcare-associated infection surveillance and response include the following:

- Analyze central line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) data reported through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) as part of legislation mandating reporting of hospital acquired infections
- Analyze data on surgical site infections (SSI) following knee arthroplasty, coronary-artery bypass graft surgery, and colon surgery reported by hospitals through NHSN
- Validate CLABSI and SSI data reported through NHSN
- Develop and implement a sentinel surveillance system for the collection of antibiogram data from NH hospitals
- Analyze large administrative datasets, such as the hospital discharge data and Medicaid claims data, to assess the occurrence of non-reportable multidrug-resistant organisms
- Use analysis results to develop education and prevention goals for the NH Healthcare-Associated Infections Program
- Produce written reports summarizing data analyses, which include data tables, data graphs, a discussion of results including limitations of the data, and any resulting recommendations
- Provide oral data presentations to stakeholders including the Healthcare-Associated Infections Technical Advisory Workgroup, the NH Healthcare Quality Commission, and the NH Infection Control and Epidemiology Professionals
- Attend state and local meetings related to healthcare-associated infections prevention and surveillance

Additionally, the fellow will be engaged in other activities beyond the healthcare-associated infection surveillance program. The fellow will be offered a broad array of experiences and opportunities in other areas of public health surveillance, public health emergency preparedness, and public health response to outbreaks or individual infectious disease cases of public health significance. These activities would include the following:

- Participate in weekly outbreak team meetings, which include an interdisciplinary group of public health professionals that discuss current outbreak and case investigations
- Attend monthly meetings of the Communicable Disease Epidemic Control Committee, which drafts and reviews statewide infectious disease and preparedness policies and guidelines
- Participate in and eventually lead outbreak investigations. This would include developing hypotheses, selecting investigation methods, developing survey instruments, administering surveys to patients, creating a data entry database, analyzing survey data, drafting the final outbreak report, and sharing results and recommendations to stakeholders. This may include responding to public and media inquiries regarding the outbreak
- Participate in public health emergency preparedness planning including assisting with protocol and policy development and participating in training exercises and drills
- Engage in public health research activities as opportunities become available. Professional presentation and publication is encouraged. The fellow is welcome to identify or propose projects that may lead to publication or poster/conference presentation

Assignment Location: Concord, NH

Primary Mentor: Christine Adamski, RN, MSN
Acting Chief, Communicable Disease Control Section
Expected to Hire an MD in Summer 2009

Advanced Degrees: MSN, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth (1997)

Secondary Mentor: Beth Daly, MPH
Acting Chief, Communicable Disease Surveillance Section
Communicable Disease Epidemiologist

Advanced Degrees: MPH, Emory University (2003)