

Infectious Disease-HAI

The Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Program was established in the Washington Department of Health in 2007. Its primary purposes are to policy recommendations regarding infection control and prevention of HAIs, administer the HAI reporting program required in all acute care hospitals throughout the state, and promote compliance with the requirements of the state and national reporting systems. The CSTE HAI fellow will be uniquely situated to work with Infection Control Practitioners in numerous healthcare systems to monitor, track, analyze, compare and report on HAIs rates for the people in Washington state. This will include the development of HAI rate validation methods to be applied in healthcare settings, development of a molecular laboratory for the molecular epidemiology studies to evaluate effective control methods, and providing instruction to infection control practitioners in the use of these newly developed methods.

Overall, the CSTE Fellow provides consultant services on the methods and definitions used by the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) operated by the CDC. The fellow will counsel healthcare facilities on planning, implementing and evaluating infection control programs and NHSN reporting. This fellow will develop educational materials about NHSN and monitoring and reporting healthcare associated infections. Specific projects will include:

MDRO Monitoring & Molecular Typing

1) Monitor invasive MRSA (as an initial MDRO focus) by typing all blood culture isolates & combining this data with epidemiological case data from ICPs.

HAI Data Validation

- 1) Review of potential validation methods for HAI data: Comparisons of cost and accuracy
- 2) Implementation of validation methods in Washington hospitals
- 3) Develop different approaches to validation of HAI data by hospital size & type: HMOs, public hospitals, private hospitals, rural health
- 4) Survey of HAI data validation methods by Washington hospitals

Evaluation of Evidence-Based Infection Prevention Measures in Hospitals

- 1) Assessment of implementation of CDC guidelines in Washington Healthcare Facilities to reduce HAIs: CLABSI, VAP, SSI, UTI
- 2) Survey of licensed healthcare providers' curriculum for infection prevention education & training

Evaluation of Evidence-Based Infection Prevention Measures in Ambulatory Settings

- 1) Infection prevention recommendations for ambulatory care: Do patients know how to protect themselves from infection?
- 2) Develop a checklist process for review of infection prevention & control in clinics

IT Systems Application to Infection Prevention & Control

- 1) Survey of commercial IT systems used in Washington hospitals' infection surveillance
- 2) Use of commercial IT systems to screen for HAIs in Washington hospitals
- 3) Use of the IP resource as an IT interface in HAI surveillance: Is this cost effective?
- 4) HAI surveillance in Washington hospitals: Measured processes & outcomes
- 5) Effectiveness of surveillance methods used by Washington hospitals for capturing post-discharge HAIs
- 6) Define components of robust HAI surveillance in Washington hospital

Assignment Location: Tumwater, Washington

Primary Mentor: David Birnbaum, PhD, MPH
Hospital-Associated Infections Program Director, Washington
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Secondary Mentor: Tony Marfin, MD, MA
State Epidemiologist