

Infectious Disease-HAI

The Vermont Department of Health has a central office located in Burlington on the beautiful shores of Lake Champlain. The Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section, a section of the Division of Health Surveillance, includes the following programs: Epidemiology Field Unit; Immunization Program; HIV/AIDS/STD/Hepatitis Prevention; HIV/AIDS/STD/Hepatitis Care; HIV Surveillance; and Vectorborne and Zoonotic Disease. The fellow will be supervised by the State Epidemiologist for Infectious Disease and the Health Surveillance Epidemiologist.

Vermont was recently awarded a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for building and sustaining state programs to prevent healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). The funding will build on infrastructure already in place for tracking HAIs. In 2003, state legislation was enacted requiring Vermont's 16 hospitals to publicly report hospital-specific quality and patient safety data. In 2005 a multidisciplinary Infection Reporting and Prevention Work Group was formed. Vermont was the first to publicly report infection rates to NHSN.

Assignment Description: Fellow will lead Vermont's NHSN data validation efforts, including:

- Select facilities to include in the project;
- Develop sampling methodology for chart reviews at those facilities;
- Abstract charts;
- Analyze data (sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive value);
- Conduct data review and education with facilities;
- Correct NHSN data as indicated.
- Introduce NHSN to long-term care facilities in Vermont and support their reporting to NHSN.
- In collaboration with the HAI Advisory Group, pilot evidence-based HAI prevention initiatives in Vermont hospitals.

Day to Day Activities will include conducting the data validation project, including travel to Vermont hospitals for chart abstraction; attending HAI Advisory Group meetings; attending daily Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section update meetings.

Potential Projects:

- Analyze data from the NHSN data validation project;
- Evaluate the use of NHSN in Vermont as a surveillance system for certain hospital-acquired infections;
- Create and update content for a new VDH HAI web site;
- Collaborate with the QIO and four Vermont hospitals to determine the feasibility of electronic reporting of denominator data into NHSN's MDRO module;
- Participate in infectious disease outbreak investigations.

Emergency Preparedness Role:

Participate in infectious disease outbreak investigations and the VDH Health Operations Center as necessary; participate in the weekend on-call rotation for the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section.

Assignment Location: Burlington, Vermont

Primary Mentor: Patsy Kelso, PhD

State Epidemiologist

Secondary Mentor: Erica Berl, DVM, MPH

Health Surveillance Epidemiologist