

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter Winter 2016

Non-tuberculous Mycobacterium (NTM) Infection Resources

CDC Health Advisory

The CDC issued a [Health Alert Network Advisory](#) on Sept. 11, 2015, alerting health care facilities of the need to properly maintain, clean, and disinfect or sterilize reusable medical devices and equipment. Health care facilities that utilize reusable medical devices were urged to immediately review their current reprocessing practices, policies and procedures to ensure manufacturer's instructions are being followed and that their policies and procedures are consistent with current standards and guidelines.

CDC Interim Practical Guidance – NTM Infections

The CDC issued a document titled [Non-tuberculous Mycobacterium \(NTM\) Infections and Heater-Cooler Devices Interim Practical Guidance: Updated October 27, 2015](#) to raise awareness of the possible association between NTM infections and the use of heater-cooler devices and to provide guidance on identifying patients with infection. Recommendations for health departments, health care facilities, health care providers and patients are also provided.

Patient Safety Communication – NTM Infections

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) and Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (PSA) issued guidance through the Health Alert Network regarding [Non-Tuberculous Mycobacterium Infections Among Patients Undergoing Open Heart Surgeries on Cardiopulmonary Bypass](#). [Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding this topic are also available.

Patient Safety Reporting System Reminder

The requirements in Act 52 of 2007 include reporting infections/events as defined in Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS) training manual dated April 1, 2014. This includes reporting infections/events within 24 hours of confirmation and utilization data by the end of the following month. Utilization data includes patient days, urinary catheter days, and central lines days. Please ensure this information is entered routinely and continuously in PA-PSRS.

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter Winter 2016

Resources

Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), antibiotics are the most frequently used and prescribed medications in nursing homes, with at least 70 percent of residents receiving at least one course of antibiotics per year and between 40 to 75 percent of those antibiotics being either unnecessary or inappropriate.

The [Core Elements publication](#) and the [Core Elements checklist](#) published by the CDC will help facilities assess current antibiotic stewardship efforts and provide guidance on steps to implement antibiotic stewardship activities.

According to the CDC, the core elements of antibiotic stewardship include:

1. A commitment from leadership regarding antibiotic stewardship;
2. Appointing a leader who is responsible for promoting and overseeing activities;
3. Appointing a pharmacist leader to improve antibiotic use;
4. Developing and implementing policies and procedures to support optimal antibiotic use;
5. A method to track the prescribing and use of antibiotics and outcomes;
6. A feedback/reporting system to share information on antibiotic use and resistance; and
7. Providing educational resources related to antibiotic use and resistance as well as emerging developments and opportunities in antibiotic stewardship.

The CDC recommends that all nursing homes take steps to improve antibiotic prescribing practices and reduce inappropriate use. Nursing homes are encouraged to select one or two activities to start and gradually add new strategies from each element over time.

**Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention
Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter
Winter 2016**

Resources

Training Opportunities

[APIC EPI Intensive](#)

March 14-18, 2016
Pittsburgh, Pa.

[Education for the Prevention of Infection \(EPI®\) 101](#)

April 18-23, 2016
San Diego, Calif.

[Education for the Prevention of Infection \(EPI®\) 102 \(formerly EPI 201\)](#)

April 18-23, 2016
San Diego, Calif.

[SHEA Spring 2016: Science Guiding Prevention](#)

May 18-21, 2016
Atlanta, Ga.

[APIC Annual Conference 2016](#)

June 11-13, 2016
Charlotte, N.C.

[ID Week 2016](#)

October 26-30, 2016
New Orleans, La.

Patient Safety Reporting System (PSRS) Help Desk

The PA-PSRS Help Desk continues to be available for any clinical questions related to patient/infection reports, infection criteria or the PA-PSRS system.

The PSRS Help Desk may be accessed by telephone at 866-316-1070
or by email at support_papsrs@pa.gov.