

Hospital Infection Control Committee 2009

Annual Report

This report is intended to summarize the activities of the Hospital Infection Control Committee for the year 2009. The mission of the Committee is to promote a healthy and safe environment by preventing transmission of infectious agents among patients, staff and visitors. The Committee meets its mission through the Department of Hospital Epidemiology staff who provides the following activities: daily patient surveillance for healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), staff education, syndromic surveillance for community outbreaks, routine environmental monitoring, evaluation of epidemics, consultation with medical and professional staff, committee participation, and conducting continuous quality improvement and special projects.

Projects completed in 2009 included the following:

1. 78 infection control rounds were conducted with a written report provided to the supervisor of the site visited that required a written reply detailing the method of correcting any deficiencies.
2. 101 communicable disease evaluations (that resulted in 58 communicable disease exposures to healthcare workers and/or patients) were conducted in which potential transmission of an infectious agent to patients or staff could have occurred. Diseases associated with communicable disease evaluations included: H1N1 influenza (32), pertussis (21), zoster (16), tuberculosis (13), parvovirus (8), syphilis (5), varicella (4) and meningococcus (2).
3. 24 infection control policies were updated, reviewed, and approved.
4. Several investigations/evaluations of HAIs were performed and discussed.
5. Among new protocols/initiatives/reports for infection prevention measures were the following: improved hand hygiene compliance in ICUs to 80%; decreased central-line associated bloodstream infection rates; decreased ventilator-associated pneumonia rates; implemented IHI infection control bundles in all ICUs; terminated screening of ICU admissions for MRSA; evaluated blood exposure events; documented sterilization monitoring; assessed VRE cross-transmission in the MICU; evaluated infections in the dermatology clinic and the electrophysiology laboratory; managed patients with acute respiratory illness in the context of the evolving discovery of novel H1N1 influenza; managed patients with MDR-*Acinetobacter* in the Burn Center; and assessed device-related infections in home health and hospice.