

PH Update
Badger APIC
November, 2011

- The October 28 issue of the MMWR features a report on invasive Group A Strep infections in a Pennsylvania skilled nursing facility. Infection control deficiencies, including low rates of hand hygiene compliance and improper wound care contributed to transmission. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6042a1.htm?s_cid=mm6042a1_e&source=govdelivery
 - A 10/26 posting on Medscape features an article listing top “game changers” in infectious diseases. John Bartlett, MD, Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Director, HIV Care Program, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, reviews significant infectious disease events, such as newly recognized mechanisms of resistance in Gram negative bacteria, reductions in CLABSI rates, and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/751959_9
 - DPH will again be contracting with WHA and MetaStar to organize HAI prevention collaborative groups, including those focused preventing CLABSI, reducing CLABSI in Level III NICUs, and preventing surgical site infections associated with hip and knee arthroplasty. It is recommended that front-line staff and physician “champions” lead these groups, with the infection preventionists lending support through surveillance and content expertise. MetaStar Outcomes Congress will be held December 8 at the Dells.
 - See the APIC October e-newsletter at http://apic.informz.net/apic/archives/archive_1339142.html regarding the national *Listeria* outbreak. This is a good consumer fact sheet to use for patients asking about this recent outbreak associated with cantaloupes from a Colorado farm.
 - CDC has issued a press release announcing certain HAI rates have declined in 2010, according to data from the National Healthcare Safety Network. There has been a 33% reduction in CLABSIs, an 18% reduction in MRSA infections, a 10% decline in surgical site infections and a 7% reduction in CAUTIs. *C. difficile* infections have not declined. http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/p1019_healthcare_infections.html
- Dr. Denise Cardo, MD, director of the CDC Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, is pleased with the strong public health-private healthcare partnerships working toward HAI elimination. <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/initiatives/hai/nationaltargets/index.html>
- An article in the October 26 online issue of *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* contains an article describing a meta-analysis of studies on the effectiveness of the influenza vaccine. The authors conclude that the vaccine provides moderate protection but is protection is greatly reduced or absent in some seasons. There is little evidence of protection in elderly individuals. Better vaccines are needed, but current vaccine practices still have a favorable cost to benefit ratio.
 - The Nov 4th issue of the MMWR contains an announcement on the reinstatement of notification requirements for emergency response employees potentially exposed to life-threatening infectious diseases. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6043a7.htm?s_cid=mm6043a7_e&source=govdelivery