

IC UPDATE

Infection Control and Public Health Update
Wisconsin Division of Public Health
Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Gwen Borlaug, CIC, MPH

PO Box 2659, Madison, Wisconsin 53701

First Quarter 2008



Taking *One in the Face...* for Others to *Get It in the Arm*

Ripon Medical Center staff got to “take a shot” at infection control practitioner Brenda Ehler and employee health nurse Mary Mellenthin after more than 80% of them rolled up their sleeves and “took a shot” in the arm this influenza season. Mmmm...you ladies look delicious (does OSHA require use of PPE for this task?)

As a reminder, the National Influenza Vaccine Summit and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urge health care providers to continue vaccinating their patients from now until April-May. Visit the following websites to find the information you need to keep vaccinating. Both are updated often with the latest resources.

National Influenza Vaccine Summit website:

<http://www.preventinfluenza.org>

CDC Seasonal Flu web section: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

--Gwen Borlaug

Transfers of Infected Patients Generate HIPAA Questions

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) finds its way into nearly every health care related discussion these days, and the topic of antibiotic resistant organisms (ARO) is no exception.

A common question is whether infection control practitioners (ICPs) are allowed to exchange information about the infectious disease status of patients who are transferred from one facility to another.

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health 2005 Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Antibiotic Resistant Organisms in Health Care Settings recommend that staff in a facility that has

cared for a patient moved to another facility provide a history of ARO at the time of transfer.

HIPAA allows for exchange of protected health information (PHI), without prior consent, among health care providers involved in the care and treatment of a patient.

Since ICPs are usually the ones communicating information about ARO status, the question is, “Are ICPs considered health care providers and therefore exempt from prior consent rules when disclosing ARO status to other agencies?”

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The Journal View

Diep BA, Chambers HF, Graber CJ, et al. Emergence of multi-drug resistant, community-associated, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Clone USA 300 in men who have sex with men. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2008; 4: 249-257.

Mangini E, Segal-Maurer S, Burns J, et al. Impact of contact and droplet precautions on the incidence of hospital-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infection. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2007; 28: 1261-1266.

Book: Offit PA, Fass-Offit B, Bell LM. Breaking the antibiotic habit: A parent's guide to coughs, colds, ear infections, and sore throats. Go to http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0471319821_descCd-tableOfContents.html to place an order. \$14.95 in the US.

Offit PA. Thimerosal and vaccines—a cautionary tale. *NEJM* 2007; 13: 1316-1317.

Rupp ME, Fitzgerald T, Puumala S, et al. Prospective, controlled, cross-over trial of alcohol-based hand gel in critical care units. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2008; 29: 8-15.

Bureau of Communicable Diseases *Spring Seminars Schedule*

Northeastern Region

Wednesday, April 30
SC Grand, DePere

Southeastern Region

Monday, May 12
Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc

Northern Region

Tuesday, May 13
AmericInn, Minocqua

Western Region

Wednesday, May 14
Best Western Trail Lodge, Eau Claire

Southern Region

Wednesday, May 28
Sheraton Hotel, Madison

Save the Date

WI Environmental Health Association

Spring Educational Conference

Tuesday-Wednesday, April 1-2

Holiday Inn—Stevens Point

Online registration is at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/conted/conferences/weha/>

WI Assoc of School Nurses Conference

Wednesday-Friday, April 23-25

Country Springs Hotel

Water Park and Conference Center

Pewaukee

Online registration is at:

https://www308.safesecureweb.com/wisconsinurse/reg_wasn2008.asp

US Dept of Health & Human Services

Region V and VIII

Healthy People 2020

Public Comment Meeting

Wednesday, April 30

Prentice Women's Hospital

Third Floor Conference Center

250 East Superior Street

Chicago, Illinois 60611

This is one in a series of public meetings held across the country to obtain perspectives on the framework used to organize Healthy People 2020 objectives. Public comment on specific objectives will be sought in 2009.

Registration is free. Online registration is at:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/regional/default.asp>.

Deadline for registration is April 23.

Wisconsin APIC

Annual Educational Conference

Thursday-Friday, May 1-2

Country Springs Hotel-Water Park

Conference Center

Pewaukee

Registration information to follow

14th Annual Jail Health Care Conference

Monday-Tuesday, May 5-6

Kalahari Resort and Convention Center

Wisconsin Dells

Online registration is at

https://www308.safesecureweb.com/wisconsinurse/reg_jailhealth1.asp

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2008 Wisconsin APIC Chapter Presidents

HFS Legal Counsel Tackles HIPAA Issue

The answer comes from attorney Jean Gilpin, legal counsel for the Dept. of Health and Family Services, who explains that HIPAA defers to state laws in defining health care providers.

Wis. Stats. 146.81 lists various licensed health care professionals as health care providers, including nurses.

ICPs who are licensed nurses are considered health care providers under this statute. For ICPs who are not nurses, Wis. Stats. 146.82 provides for release of patient health care records without consent “to a health care provider or any person acting under the supervision of a health care provider...”

Gilpin’s interpretation is that ICPs who are licensed professionals are considered health care providers, and non-licensed staff are agents of health care providers, and therefore both are allowed to disclose PHI to other health care facilities caring for their patients.

So the next time your facility transfers a patient with a history of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or other ARO, you can, and should, share that information with the receiving facility.

TB Data Available For Region/County

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Health Care Settings (December 2005),” contain recommendations for conducting TB risk assessments based on state and local epidemiological data.

Wisconsin TB case numbers are available by region and county from 2002-2006 at:

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/tb/pdf/tbcht06.pdf>

Data for 2007 will be posted sometime in March, 2008; meanwhile 2006 data may be used for current risk assessment activities.

Wisconsin remains a low incidence state, with fewer than a hundred cases of active TB per calendar year. In 2006 there were 75 reported cases of active TB compared to 78 in 2005. Numbers of reported cases continue to slowly decrease.

<p>Badger Chapter Nancy Moskal Stoughton Hospital 900 Ridge Street Stoughton, WI 53589 nmoskal@stohosp.com 608-873-2348 Fax: 608-873-2384</p>	<p>NCW Chapter Jeanine Bresnahan Wausau Hospital 1509 Pine View Lane Wausau, WI 54403 jeanineb@aspirus.org 715-847-2330 Fax: 715-847-2207</p>
<p>NEW Chapter Anna Malek Park View Health Center 725 Butler Avenue Winnebago, WI 54985 amalek@co.winnebago.wi.us 920-235-5100 Fax: 920-424-7530</p>	<p>SEW Chapter Patti Wilson Froedtert and the MCW 9200 West Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53226 pwilson@fmlh.edu 414-805-2638 Fax: 414-805-5398</p>

Briefly Speaking...

Preparedness Gets a New Home

Notice the “P” missing from the bureau name? For the past few years the Bureau was called the Bureau of Communicable Diseases and Preparedness to reflect the fact that preparedness planners were housed in BCD.

Now that a preparedness unit has been formed in the Division of Public Health Administration Office, that staff is no longer part of BCD, hence the name has been changed back to the original Bureau of Communicable Diseases.

Members of the preparedness unit include Diane Christen, public health preparedness coordinator, Dennis Tomczyk, hospital preparedness coordinator, Sara Strell, consortia coordinator, Joe Cordova, Strategic National Stockpile coordinator, and Lisa Pentony, pandemic influenza preparedness coordinator.

Immunization Program

All Students Added to Influenza Target

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended influenza vaccination for all school-aged children, boosting the number of children targeted for flu shots by 30 million. The recommendation is to take effect no later than the 2009-10 season.

The committee made the decision because children in this age group have significant disease burden from influenza and are also sources of influenza transmission among household contacts and the community.

<p align="center">AIDS/HIV Program Position Announcement HIV Screening Consultant Location: 1 West Wilson Street, Madison Classification: Public Health Educator Advanced (PR 11-10) Additional information and instructions for applying are available at http://www.slh.wisc.edu/about/jobs.php Applications are due by 4:30 pm March 21</p>
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Communicable Diseases Epidemiology Section

Changes to Appendix A of Administrative Rule HFS 145, which lists communicable diseases and conditions reportable in Wisconsin, became effective March 1, 2008.

A separate mailing will detail all of the revisions made to the rule.

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Several hundred laboratory reports of invasive bacterial infections have been submitted to local health departments and BCD without an accompanying 4151 Acute and Communicable Disease Case Report Form.

Epidemiologist Susann Ahrabi-Fard (608-261-6955) reminds reporters that a "4151" must also be submitted to collect necessary demographic information on all cases.

Infection control practitioners are urged to work with their laboratory staff to design reporting methods that ensure both lab reports and 4151 report forms are submitted.

Reportable invasive bacterial infections

(from cultures of normally sterile body sites)

Bacterial meningitis (other than H. influenzae or meningococcal)

Haemophilus influenzae

(including epiglottitis)

Neisseria meningitidis

Streptococcus Group A

Streptococcus Group B

Streptococcus pneumoniae

Norovirus Control in Food Establishments: CDC Recommendations for Environmental Decontamination

A report of a norovirus outbreak associated with ill food service workers in Michigan includes CDC recommendations for infection control and environmental decontamination after any vomiting incidents in food service establishments.

Go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5646a2.htm> to view the full report.

Recommended actions:

Any exposed food or single-service articles (e.g., drinking straws, takeout containers, and paper napkins) should be discarded, and all surface areas within at least a 25-foot radius of the vomiting site should be disinfected

with a bleach solution.

Ill employees should be excluded from work for at least 72 hours after symptoms subside, and employees returning after a gastrointestinal illness should be restricted from handling kitchenware or ready-to-eat food for an additional 72 hours.

Because thorough disinfection might be necessary, partial or complete closure of the food establishment should be considered after a vomiting incident.

Restrooms used during or after a vomiting incident should be closed immediately until they are disinfected properly with bleach solution.

Resources on the Internet

Cleaners and Medical Equipment

Public health notification from FDA, CDC, EPA and OSHA: Avoiding hazards with using cleaners and disinfectants on electronic medical equipment. October 31, 2007.

<http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/103107-cleaners.html>

MRSA Athlete Posters

Public Health Foundation posters on preventing MRSA in athletes.

http://bookstore.phf.org/index.php?cPath=69_86

Staph aureus of Animal Origin

Emergence of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* of animal origin in humans. *EID* 2007. <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/13/12/1834.htm>

Healthcare Personnel Immunization

Immunizing healthcare personnel against influenza: A report on best practices. National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

<http://www.nfid.org/HCWtoolkit/report.html>