

# IC UPDATE

Infection Prevention and Public Health Update  
Wisconsin Division of Public Health  
Bureau of Communicable Diseases & Emergency Response  
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Third Quarter 2011

## Bureau Welcomes New Epidemiologist

Suzanne Gibbons-Burgener DVM, PhD, recently joined the Bureau of Communicable Diseases and Emergency Response as a communicable diseases epidemiologist.

Suzanne had been a diagnostic epidemiologist and quality manager at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab for the past nine years and held an academic appointment as an assistant clinical professor in the pathobiological sciences department at the UW-School of Veterinary Medicine.

She developed a laboratory quality system that was essential to regain full laboratory accreditation. While at the WVDL, she worked closely with colleagues in public practice at WDATCP, USDA, WDNR and WDPH to investigate and prevent diseases such as West Nile virus, influenza, Q fever and brucellosis.

Although her bachelor's degree is in veterinary medicine, her undergraduate studies were in medical technology. The southeast Michigan native received her DVM from Michigan State University in

1991. She was a large animal veterinarian in southeast Michigan for one year and a field Veterinary Medical Officer for the MI Dept. of Agriculture for six months prior to returning to MSU for graduate studies.

In 2000, she completed her PhD in epidemiology with a minor in adult education. She moved to Wisconsin in 2001 to join the faculty at the WVDL and UW-SVM.

Before becoming a veterinarian, she had coached gymnastics, worked as a short-order cook, and spent summers on Mackinac Island as an historical interpreter and cashier at Fort Mackinac.

Dr. Gibbons-Burgener recently became a certified fish health veterinarian, and also became a member of the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps. She has also served on many state and national committees that impact human and animal health.

Her professional interests include the epidemiology of food safety hazards, zoonotic diseases and emerging diseases, as well as applied research approaches to



**Dr. Suzanne Gibbons-Burgener**

mitigate the occurrence of those diseases in animal and human populations.

"Being at DPH offers a wonderful opportunity to further develop those interests and make a real difference in the health of Wisconsinites," says Dr. Gibbons-Burgener.

She and her husband, Ken, and their two children live in DeForest. In her spare time she enjoys her volunteer work as a Girl Scout advisor and swimming official.

## Hospitals to Begin Reporting CRE

Jeffrey P. Davis, MD, chief medical officer and state epidemiologist for communicable diseases and emergency response, is calling upon hospital infection preventionists to report carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella* spp. and *E. coli* infections among their inpatients starting December 1, 2011.

According to the CDC, carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*, or CREs, are emerging as important healthcare-associated pathogens in the US. They are resistant to virtually all antimicrobial agents and cause infections associated with high rates of morbidity and mortality.

In response to this threat CDC is urging state health departments to assess CRE prevalence in their acute care facilities and

to assist in developing prevention strategies.

Dr. Davis is requesting acute care and critical access hospitals to report CRE-positive clinical cultures to the Division of Public Health from December 1, 2011-May 31, 2012. The DPH will determine whether to extend the reporting period after reviewing the data.

Infection preventionists will receive a memo with details and a link to the surveillance training session scheduled for Thursday, October 13 from 2:00-3:00 pm.

"We need to prevent this organism from taking hold in our healthcare facilities," says Dr. Davis, "and we are relying on the great work of the infection preventionists to do so."



# Project Update

## Ready! Set! Report!

By Ashlie Dowdell

Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) reporting to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) via the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) will continue to expand in the next two years.

Additional facility types and module topic reporting will more than double the number of facilities using the system in the next year. Facilities affected include:

### Acute Care, Prospective Payment System (PPS) Hospitals

PPS hospitals started reporting central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) data on January 1, 2011, as part of the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program.

This includes CLABSIs in adult, pediatric, and neonatal intensive care units (ICU). CLABSI reporting will continue indefinitely and additional topics have been announced for inclusion in the program in 2012 and 2013:

- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) in adult and pediatric ICUs starting January 1, 2012.
- Surgical site infections (SSI) for colon and abdominal hysterectomy procedures starting January 1, 2012.
- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) laboratory-identified blood specimens with facility-wide denominator collection starting January 1, 2013. The laboratory-identified (LabID) component of the multi-drug resistant organism (MDRO) module includes MRSA-positive clinical cultures.
- *Clostridium difficile* LabID events reported facility-wide starting January 1, 2013.
- Healthcare worker influenza vaccination reporting starting January 1, 2013 (through

March 31, 2013 for the first reporting year). Future reporting periods will include an October 1 through March 31 timeframe.

The final rule for FY 2012 reporting included the possibility of ventilator-associated pneumonia; post-procedure pneumonia; and MDRO-VRE, *Klebsiella*, and *Acinetobacter* data collection in the future.

PPS hospitals are a subset of hospitals. This does not include critical access, children's, VA, long-term acute care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, or psychiatric hospitals due to differing CMS payment structures.

### Dialysis Centers

The CMS proposed rule for dialysis center reporting applies to all outpatient dialysis centers, including both outpatient clinics attached to hospitals and free-standing centers.

The first year of reporting (2012) will require dialysis centers to enroll in NHSN and report any three or more consecutive months of dialysis module data in NHSN. The three proposed measures at this time are:

- IV antimicrobial start;
- Positive blood culture; and,
- Signs of vascular access infection.

The three measures remain proposed, but CDC expects them to be finalized by November 15, 2011. As part of the 2012 reporting requirement, more than 5,000 dialysis centers are expected to enroll in NHSN.

### Long-term Acute Care Hospitals (LTAC)

LTACs will begin reporting CLABSI and CAUTI with facility-wide denominators on October 1, 2012.

It is estimated that almost half of the licensed LTACs nationally (200/439) are already participating in NHSN.

The FY 2012 final rule included ventilator-associated pneumonia, SSI and MDRO as possible topics for future reporting.

### Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRF)

IRFs, per the CMS definition, include freestanding rehab hospitals, as well as rehab units within acute care hospitals. Check internally if you are not sure if your rehab unit is part of this group – this is reassessed annually by CMS. IRFs are defined as facilities providing intensive rehab programs and patients admitted must be able to tolerate three hours of intense rehab services per day. These facilities are paid under the IRF prospective payment system and must submit a patient assessment instrument in order to be paid.

IRFs will begin reporting CAUTI facility-wide on October 1, 2012. CDC estimates that very few IRFs nationally (26/1,152) currently report data to NHSN.

### Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASC)

ASC reporting rules currently remain in proposed status, but will likely be finalized in the future. ASCs are part of the second tier of facilities included in the US Department of Health and Human Services HAI Action Plan, along with dialysis centers.

To meet this growing enrollment, CDC has enhanced the NHSN hardware and added Help Desk support staff (and will likely continue to do so). Efforts are also underway to expand the types of electronic data NHSN can accept.

Additional guidance will continue to be released for how CDC and CMS will collect and report these data, including adjustments to how locations and facilities are enrolled in NHSN (e.g., should inpatient rehab facilities within a hospital be separate facilities in NHSN?), so stay tuned for more details.

If you are responsible for infection prevention in one of the facilities that will be joining NHSN, please contact Ashlie Dowdell, HAI Program Surveillance Coordinator, at 608-266-1122 or [ashlie.dowdell@wi.gov](mailto:ashlie.dowdell@wi.gov), for more information about the NHSN enrollment process and data entry.

# 80% Club Membership Stalls During 2010-11 Influenza Season

For the first time since 2005 the number of hospitals and nursing homes with healthcare personnel (HCP) influenza vaccination rates of at least 80% has dropped.

During the 2010-11 influenza season 44 (34%) of 131 hospitals (vs. 50 in 2009-10), and 108 (27%) of 397 nursing homes (vs. 117 in 2009-10) reached the 80% mark or higher.

The majority of Wisconsin hospitals and nursing homes use recommended strategies (e.g. offering free vaccine at convenient locations and times, providing education, and requiring declination statements) to promote uptake of the vaccine among HCP, yet most fail to reach optimum levels of vaccination needed to protect patients and residents.

Because long-used measures have failed to move rates upward nationally, nearly a dozen professional organizations, including APIC (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology) and SHEA (Society for Healthcare Epidem-

iology in America), recommend healthcare organizations implement mandates for HCP influenza vaccination.

Two healthcare systems in Wisconsin--Aurora Healthcare, Inc., Milwaukee, and Lakeview Medical Center, Rice Lake--are among groups listed on the Immunization Action Coalition Honor Roll for Patient Safety for their "stellar examples of influenza vaccination mandates in healthcare settings."

To be on the honor roll the organization must require influenza vaccination for employees and must include serious measures to prevent transmission of influenza from unvaccinated workers to patients. Such measures might include a mask requirement, reassignment to non-patient-care duties, or dismissal of the employee.

Lakeview Medical Center implemented a mandate starting October, 2007, which requires all healthcare workers and clerical staff to receive influenza vaccine. The vaccine is free of charge for all volunteers,

physicians, and students. Exemption to immunization is allowed for medical and religious reasons, but employees covered by this policy are required to wear a mask while at work during influenza season.

Beginning May, 2011 all Aurora Healthcare HCP and volunteers, as well as clerical, dietary, janitorial, and laboratory staff, must receive influenza vaccine or face progressive disciplinary procedures, including dismissal. Exemption to immunization is allowed for valid medical contraindications and religious reasons.

DPH continues to recommend that healthcare facilities provide free influenza vaccine on-site for employees, promote the vaccine with effective education campaigns, and require signed declination statements when employees refuse the vaccine.

Healthcare leaders should also clearly communicate the expectation that all employees receive the influenza vaccine annually.

## 2010-11 Members of 80% Club

The following hospitals and nursing homes achieved an important patient safety goal by vaccinating at least 80% of their employees against influenza from August 1, 2010, through February 28, 2011.

| <u>Hospital</u>                           | <u>County</u> | <u>Hospital</u>                             | <u>County</u> |
|---|---------------|---|---------------|
| Aurora Medical Center-Manitowoc.....      | Manitowoc     | Monroe Clinic .....                         | Green         |
| Aurora Medical Center-Oshkosh.....        | Oshkosh       | North Central Health Care .....             | Marathon      |
| Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington... | Racine        | Oakleaf Surgical Hospital.....              | Eau Claire    |
| Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical.....    | Sheboygan     | Osceola Medical Center.....                 | Polk          |
| Bellin Health.....                        | Brown         | Our Lady of Victory Hospital.....           | Clark         |
| Black River Memorial Hospital.....        | Jackson       | Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital.....     | Crawford      |
| Boscobel Area Health Care.....            | Grant         | Red Cedar Medical Center.....               | Dunn          |
| Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.....     | Milwaukee     | Reedsburg Area Medical Center.....          | Sauk          |
| Children's Hospital of WI-Fox Valley..... | Winnebago     | Ripon Medical Center.....                   | Fond du Lac   |
| Community Memorial Hospital.....          | Oconto        | River Falls Area Hospital.....              | St. Croix     |
| Cumberland Hospital.....                  | Barron        | Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital .....        | Sauk          |
| Flambeau Hospital.....                    | Price         | Select Specialty Hospital.....              | Dane          |
| Froedtert Health-St. Joseph .....         | Washington    | Shawano Medical Center.....                 | Shawano       |
| Grant Regional Health Center .....        | Grant         | Southwest Health Center.....                | Grant         |
| Hudson Hospital & Clinics .....           | St. Croix     | Spoooner Health System.....                 | Washburn      |
| Indianhead Medical Center.....            | Washburn      | St. Croix Regional Medical Center.....      | Polk          |
| Lakeview Medical Center .....             | Barron        | Stoughton Hospital.....                     | Dane          |
| Luther Midelfort Mayo Health-Eau Claire.  | Eau Claire    | Tomah Memorial Hospital.....                | Monroe        |
| Luther Midelfort Northland .....          | Barron        | University of Wisc. Hospital & Clinics..... | Dane          |
| Luther Midelfort Oakridge .....           | Trempealeau   | Upland Hills Health.....                    | Iowa          |
| Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County.... | Lafayette     | Vernon Memorial Healthcare.....             | Vernon        |
| Ministry Door County Medical Center.....  | Door          | Wild Rose Community Memorial Hosp....       | Waushara      |

## 2010-11 Members of 80% Club

| <u>Nursing Home</u>                       | <u>County</u> | <u>Nursing Home</u>                            | <u>County</u> |
|---|---------------|--|---------------|
| Alexian Village of Milwaukee.....         | Milwaukee     | Menomonee Falls Health Care.....               | Waukesha      |
| American Heritage Care Center .....       | St. Croix     | Mercy Manor Transition Center.....             | Rock          |
| Ashland Health and Rehab Center.....      | Ashland       | Mercy Residential and Rehab Center.....        | Milwaukee     |
| Aspirus Pleasant View .....               | Price         | Mineral Point Care Center.....                 | Iowa          |
| Baldwin Care Center.....                  | St. Croix     | Ministry Door Cty Skilled Nursing Facility.... | Door          |
| Birch Hill Care Center .....              | Shawano       | Morningside Health Center.....                 | Sheboygan     |
| Boscobel Care and Rehab Center.....       | Grant         | Morrow Memorial Home.....                      | Monroe        |
| Brewster Village.....                     | Outagamie     | Mount View Care Center.....                    | Marathon      |
| Care-Age of Brookfield.....               | Waukesha      | Muskego Health Care Center.....                | Waukesha      |
| Cedar Lake Health & Rehab Center.....     | Washington    | Nazareth Health & Rehabilitation.....          | Dane          |
| Chippewa Manor Nursing Home.....          | Chippewa      | New Glarus Home.....                           | Green         |
| Clark County Health Care Center.....      | Clark         | NuRoc Community Healthcare.....                | Forest        |
| Clement Manor.....                        | Milwaukee     | Oak Ridge Care Center.....                     | Racine        |
| Colfax Health and Rehab.....              | Dunn          | Oakbrook Health and Rehab.....                 | Clark         |
| Colony Oaks Care Center.....              | Outagamie     | Omro Care Center.....                          | Winnebago     |
| Columbia Health Care Center.....          | Columbia      | Onalaska Care Center.....                      | La Crosse     |
| Connell Area Care Center.....             | Chippewa      | Park Manor Nursing Home.....                   | Price         |
| Crystal River Nursing Home.....           | Waupaca       | Park View Home.....                            | St. Croix     |
| Cumberland Extended Care Unit.....        | Barron        | Pine Haven Christian Home.....                 | Sheboygan     |
| Edgerton Care Center.....                 | Rock          | Pioneer Nursing Home.....                      | Barron        |
| Ellsworth Care Center.....                | Pierce        | Reedsburg Area Senior Life Center.....         | Sauk          |
| Evansville Manor.....                     | Rock          | Rennes East.....                               | Marinette     |
| Fair View Nursing Home.....               | Juneau        | Rennes West.....                               | Marinette     |
| Fairhaven.....                            | Walworth      | Ridgewood Care Center.....                     | Racine        |
| Family Heritage Care Center.....          | Jackson       | Saint John's Communities.....                  | Milwaukee     |
| Frederic Nursing & Rehab Atrium Ctrs..... | Polk          | Samaritan's Cedar Crossing.....                | Washington    |
| GLC - Valley of Hayward.....              | Sawyer        | Sannes Skogdalen.....                          | Crawford      |
| Golden Living Center-Wisconsin Dells..... | Columbia      | Santa Maria.....                               | Brown         |
| Golden Living Court Manor.....            | Ashland       | Sarah Chudnow Nursing Home.....                | Ozaukee       |
| Golden Living Heritage Square.....        | Milwaukee     | Sauk County Healthcare Center.....             | Sauk          |
| Golden Living-Sheboygan.....              | Sheboygan     | Schmitt Woodland Hills.....                    | Richland      |
| Good Samaritan Society-Fennimore.....     | Grant         | Shady Lane.....                                | Manitowoc     |
| Good Samaritan Society-Scandia.....       | Door          | Sheridan Medical Complex.....                  | Kenosha       |
| Grancare Nursing Center and Gardens.....  | Brown         | Sky View Nursing Facility.....                 | Iron          |
| Grays Nursing Home.....                   | Grant         | South Pointe Nursing Home.....                 | Milwaukee     |
| Greentree Health and Rehab Center.....    | Waupaca       | Southwest Health Center.....                   | Grant         |
| Greenway Manor.....                       | Sauk          | Spring Valley Health Care Center.....          | Pierce        |
| Hayward Area Memorial Hospital.....       | Sawyer        | St. Anne's Salvatorian Campus.....             | Milwaukee     |
| HCR Manor Care Health Services.....       | Brown         | St. Dominic Villa.....                         | Grant         |
| Heartland Country Village.....            | Dane          | Terrace View Living Center.....                | Washburn      |
| Heritage Manor.....                       | Juneau        | The Lutheran Home.....                         | St. Croix     |
| Highland Heights Nursing Home.....        | Milwaukee     | The Willows.....                               | Dane          |
| Holton Manor.....                         | Walworth      | Trinity Village.....                           | Milwaukee     |
| Iola Living Assistance.....               | Waupaca       | United Pioneer Home.....                       | Polk          |
| Ladysmith Nursing Home.....               | Rusk          | Upland Hills Health Nursing & Rehab.....       | Iowa          |
| Linden Grove-Waukesha.....                | Waukesha      | Vernon Manor.....                              | Vernon        |
| Luther Midelfort Northland.....           | Barron        | Villa Marina.....                              | Douglas       |
| ManorCare.....                            | Fond du Lac   | Village at Manor Park.....                     | Milwaukee     |
| Maplewood of Sauk Prairie.....            | Sauk          | Water's Edge Care Center.....                  | Sawyer        |
| Marinuka Manor.....                       | Trempealeau   | Wellspring of Milwaukee.....                   | Milwaukee     |
| Marquardt Memorial Manor.....             | Dodge         | Willow Ridge Healthcare.....                   | Polk          |
| Mary Jude Nursing Home.....               | Milwaukee     | Wisconsin Lutheran Care Center.....            | Milwaukee     |
| Maryhill Manor.....                       | Marinette     | Woodland Village .....                         | Oconto        |
| Meadow View Manor.....                    | Sheboygan     | Woodstock Health & Rehab Center.....           | Kenosha       |

## Save the Date

### Surveillance for CRE Organisms Using NHSN

Webcast hosted by the Division of Public Health on upcoming reporting requirements for acute care and critical access hospitals:

**Thursday, October 13, 2011  
2:00-3:00 P.M.**

Log on to:

<http://dhsmedia.wi.gov/main/Viewer/?peid=1a2b71fd5cf0436dbf98a95a12a32392&autoStart=true>

The Webcast will be archived.

### Ambulatory Surgery Centers and Infection Prevention

A one-day conference hosted by the Northeastern Wisconsin APIC chapter.

**Friday, October 21**

**7:30 am-3:15 pm**

Brett Favre's Steak House

1004 Brett Favre Pass

Green Bay

Contact Kathy Beier at:

[kathy.beier@chnwi.org](mailto:kathy.beier@chnwi.org)

for a brochure.



Emma Gelman of DPH, Jill Hanson of WHA, Gwen Borlaug of DPH and Eileen Scalise of MetaStar recently attended a meeting of state partners for HAI reduction held in Dallas, Texas. The U.S. Dept. of HHS sponsored event updated participants on initiatives to reduce healthcare-associated infections. The four are pictured at a non-HHS-sponsored evening gathering at the Texas Rangers ballpark. The Rangers defeated the Cleveland Indians 7-2.

### New MetaStar Charter

MetaStar announces that as part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) national quality improvement program they have received an updated charter for leading change.

From August 2011-July 2014, MetaStar will work with hospitals to reduce healthcare-associated infections, beginning with catheter-associated urinary tract infections and expanding to *Clostridium difficile* infections and surgical site infections.

MetaStar works jointly with the Wisconsin Hospital Association and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health to enhance rather than duplicate statewide HAI reduction efforts. Facilities are offered services free of charge.

Contact Eileen Scalise at [escalise@metastar.com](mailto:escalise@metastar.com) or 608-274-1940 to learn how your facility can participate in the MetaStar HAI reduction projects.

#### --JOB OPPORTUNITY--

Saint Mary's Hospital of Janesville, Wisconsin  
Infection Control Department

**Position Description:** Responsible for development and coordination of the overall infection control program. Hospital wide surveillance and infection control is conducted. Analysis and interpretation of findings conducted to identify necessary performance improvement opportunities. Also responsible for developing, promoting and maintaining a program for the general physical and emotional health of employees, including: prevention of disease, maintenance of a healthy and safe work environment, follow-up and monitoring of sick or injured employees, education and training of employees, and a complete and accurate record-keeping system for all Employee Health services and programs. CQI and improving organization performance is incorporated into all activities.

**Requirements:** Graduate of an accredited school of nursing or medical technology. Current Registered Nurse (RN) license granted by the State of Wisconsin. A minimum two years experience. Obtain Certified Infection Control (CIC) within two years of employment.

**Shift:** 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M., Monday thru Friday. 72 hours per pay period of two weeks.

**Contact Person:** Jessica Zimbelman – 608-373-8901.

**Apply on-line:** [www.stmarysjanesville.com](http://www.stmarysjanesville.com)