Strengthening HAI Prevention Efforts in Small and Rural Hospitals

A partnership project of the Region IX Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and the California Dept. of Public Health/Center for Healthcare Quality,
Funded by the Office of Healthcare Quality

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Project Identification

- CDC recommendation from technical review of state HAI plan: Develop methods of communication to share best practices among participating healthcare facilities

- Approached State HAI Coordinator with idea about a project to identify the information sharing and communication needs of the HAI prevention community

- Discussion evolved – a specific need was defined due to limited understanding/data on the quality of ongoing HAI prevention activities in small and rural hospitals

- CDPH recognized the seriousness of HAIs and initiated prevention efforts in the early 1990s – key legislation has established infrastructure for formal HAI program
Project Goal

• Advance and support HAI prevention efforts targeted to the rural, small, and critical access acute care hospitals

• Add specialized expertise to the IP team (currently 5.5 FTE IPs regionally based) related to the rural hospital care setting

• Expand the existing outreach infrastructure to provide onsite support to hospitals, healthcare providers, and local public health officers
Challenges

• Population: 37 million
• 192,000 square miles
• 430 hospitals: 72 rural/28 critical access
  – 20% not participating in prevention collaboratives
    (most likely small or rural and less likely to be members of CA Hospital Association)
• Cultural and geographic diversity
• Requires decentralized approach
• Communication, Collaboration, Teamwork: critical for successful HAI prevention efforts
Project Strategy

• Disseminating Best Practices
  – Evaluate HAI prevention needs
  – Collect tools and best practices
  – Develop a model approach for the dissemination to remote hospitals
  – Capitalize on partnerships with county public health officials to support local acute care hospital HAI prevention efforts
Project Strategy

• Improving Communication and Outreach – to local public health officials, rural healthcare providers, local healthcare consumers, academia
  – Raise awareness of need to address HAIs
  – Empower consumers to be effective patient advocates
  – Assist healthcare professionals focus on preventive steps that will yield the most benefits
  – Share progress in reducing HAIs
  – Promote and sustain attention to HAIs within provider community
  – Reshape social norms so that HAI prevention measures become standard practice
Outreach

- Reducing HAIs is a shared responsibility of government and healthcare
- Developing and disseminating HAI prevention messages
  - Appropriate for rural audiences
  - Based on risk communication principles
  - Based on social marketing principles
  - Incorporation of HHS top ten priority messages for rural healthcare consumers
  - 5 top HHS messages for HCPs to be developed and implemented for rural healthcare setting
Objectives

• Health impact
  – Improve health outcomes of hospitalized patients with sustained reductions in HAI rates

• Customer focused
  – Provide expert consultation to CA hospitals and local public health depts.
  – Increase HCPs use of HAI data to drive internal efforts
  – Make HAI data available to the public
  – Contribute to national HAI prevention targets
Objectives

• Learning
  – Develop expert IP team to advance HAI prevention
  – Expand CDPH and local public health expertise in surveillance and reporting
  – Provide HAI education to hospitals, IPs, other infection prevention stakeholders

• Process
  – Promulgate best practices and support culture change through effective HAI prevention collaboratives
  – Obtain input from the California HAI Advisory Committee
Objectives

• Financial
  – Effective management of federal and state resources
  – Demonstrate hospital and state-level cost savings due to HAI prevention

• Outcomes, targets and measures have been established for each objective
Coordination/Collaboration

• Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health/Office of Healthcare Quality
• CDC and CMS
• Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Rural Health Policy
• California Rural Health Association