

## **National Patient Safety Goal #7**

The patient safety goal, "Reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections," contains requirements for hand hygiene and managing sentinel events. In 2009, three new requirements have been added that address the prevention of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) with high mortality rates due to multidrug-resistant organisms such as MRSA, central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs) and surgical site infections (SSIs).

These new requirements have a one-year phase-in period with full implementation expected by January 1, 2010. Carondelet Infection Prevention and Control is currently working on addressing the elements of performance for each of these new goals. Listed below are just some of the components of these new requirements.

**Multi-drug-resistant organisms (MDROs):** Implement evidence-based practices to prevent HAIs due to MDROs in acute-care hospitals.

- Conduct risk assessments for MDRO acquisition and transmission; use the results to educate staff and licensed independent practitioners about HAIs, MDROs and prevention strategies
- Provide MDRO surveillance data to senior leadership, licensed independent practitioners, nursing staff and other clinicians
- Educate patients (and their families as needed) who are infected or colonized with a MDRO about HAI prevention strategies
- Reduce the risk of transmission by implementing evidence-based policies and practices that meet regulatory requirements

**Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs):** Implement best practices or evidence-based guidelines to prevent CLABSIs.

- Upon hire and annually, educate healthcare workers about HAIs, CLABSIs and the importance of prevention
- Prior to insertion of a central venous catheter, educate patients (and, as needed, their families) about CLABSI prevention
- Provide infection rate data to senior leadership, licensed independent practitioners, nursing staff and other clinicians
- Perform hand hygiene prior to catheter insertion or manipulation
- For adult patients: do not insert catheters into the femoral vein unless other sites are unavailable
- Evaluate all central venous catheters routinely for necessity; remove when no longer needed

**Surgical site infections (SSIs):** Implement best practices for preventing SSIs.

- Upon hire and annually, educate healthcare workers who are involved in surgical procedures about HAIs, SSIs and the importance of prevention
- Prior to all surgical procedures, educate patients (and their families as needed) who are undergoing a surgical procedure about SSI prevention
- Reduce the risk of SSIs by implementing evidence-based policies and practices that meet regulatory requirements
- Provide SSI rate data and prevention outcome measures to senior leadership, licensed independent practitioners, nursing staff and other clinicians
- Ensure that antimicrobial agents used for prophylaxis for a particular procedure or disease are administered according to evidence-based standards and guidelines for best practices
- When hair removal is necessary, use clippers or depilatories

Hand Hygiene performance, MDRO, CLABSI and SSI prevention-related education self-learning packets (SLPs) for clinicians will be available on CaROL by January 1, 2010. Patient education handouts on these same topics will be available on CareNotes as well.