



SEPTEMBER 2011

Public Health

WEST NILE VIRUS: Late summer, early fall has become West Nile Fever season in Pima County. The summer rains have produced an increase in the mosquito population this year. As of 9/1/2011, Arizona has had 4 confirmed human cases and 18 probable cases (19 in Maricopa, 2 in Pima, and 1 in Yavapai). A total of 108 pools across Arizona have tested positive for WNV (96 in Maricopa, 8 in Pinal, 2 in Yuma, 1 in Mohave and 1 in Pima). Pima County Health Department is currently investigating reported viremic blood donors and suspect human cases. Maricopa reported its first WNV deaths in 2011. The two victims were both elderly men in good health prior to infection, and they were residents from different parts of the Phoenix valley. West Nile virus can cause severe illness in people and horses, although only about 20% of those infected will develop flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, body aches, and muscle weakness. Some people, especially the elderly, may experience more severe symptoms including high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, and/or encephalitis or inflammation of brain, which can lead to paralysis or death.

Preventing Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infections: *REMINDER*

Documentation of central venous catheter insertion practice is necessary to provide compliance with JC NPSG 07.04.01. This can be accomplished by either completing an insertion form or including the following bundle components in your dictation of the procedure. Don't forget to include documentation of the "time out" process as well.

Bundle components requiring documentation in medical record:

- Site selection: avoid using the femoral site in adults. Use a subclavian site rather than a jugular or femoral site
- Hand hygiene performed
- Appropriate skin prep
 - Chlorhexidene gluconate (CHG) for patients \geq 2 months old. (NOTE: CHG has not been labeled for use by the Food and Drug and Administration with patients $<$ 2 months of age)
 - Povidone iodine, alcohol, CHG, or other specified for children $<$ 2 months old
- Skin prep agent has completely dried before insertion
- **All** 5 (five) maximal sterile barriers used
 - Sterile gloves
 - Sterile gown
 - Cap
 - Mask worn
 - Large sterile full body drape for patient

Other EPs (Elements of Performance) associated with NPSG 07.04.01 requiring compliance includes:

- **EP 12:** For adult patients, do not insert catheters into the femoral vein unless other sites are unavailable. To help us comply with this element of performance, please document femoral insertion necessity due to unavailability of alternate sites.

- **EP 16: “SCRUB THE HUB!”:** Disinfect catheter hubs and injection ports before accessing the ports with alcohol or alcohol/CHG pads for a minimum of 10 seconds for proper disinfection.
- **EP 17:** Daily assess if your patient still needs that central venous catheter or PICC line. The longer a line remains in place, the higher the risk for infection.

Study: One in three people affected by healthcare-associated infections

- A survey of for Advanced Sterilization Products (ASP) revealed that 34 percent of U.S. adults “have, or know someone who has, acquired an infection after being exposed to germs during a hospital stay,” according to an ASP news release. ASP is a developer of innovative infection prevention technologies. The survey also found that 64 percent of respondents “do not think they would be better protected from germs in the hospital than in their daily lives,” reports ASP. Strict adherence to hand hygiene is an easy, simple practice that helps protect patients.

“Contagion” – The movie!

On September 9, Warner Brothers will be releasing the movie *Contagion*, a fictional drama that portrays CDC and other U.S. and international partners responding to an emerging infectious disease outbreak. When asked to respond to the inevitable question about the plot of the movie, “Could this really happen?” CDC is compelled to say, **“Not only could it happen, CDC scientists are working 24/7 to find out if it’s happening right now.”** To learn more about *Contagion* and how CDC protects America 24/7, visit the following sites:

- [Contagion official website](http://contagionmovie.warnerbros.com/index.html) — Directed by Steven Soderbergh, the movie stars Kate Winslet, Matt Damon, Jude Law, Marion Cotillard, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Lawrence Fishburne.
- [Contagion and CDC](http://www.cdcfoundation.org/content/how-cdc-saves-lives-controlling-real-global-disease-outbreaks) — A website created by the CDC Foundation to help separate fact from fiction and to highlight CDC’s role in preparedness and response.
- [CDC 24/7](http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/) — A CDC website that includes information you may find useful on how public health protects Americans from outbreaks.

Flu vaccines

With the weather outside still in triple digits and high nineties, it’s hard to believe the start of flu season is almost here. Maricopa County and other counties in the state have begun reporting confirmed cases. Traditionally, CHN has offered flu vaccinations to medical staff, associates and volunteers beginning October 1st. CHN Chief Medical Officers, Dr. Patricia Martinez, and Quality Management/Infection Prevention Teams, in conjunction with the Infectious Disease Physicians representing the ID consultants for the CHN hospitals, have endorsed starting the Associate Flu Vaccination Program September 1st each year. This is in keeping with the CDC guidelines and recommendations for annual Influenza vaccination. Over the next few weeks the Associate Health and Wellness Department will provide education and announce clinic hours to make the vaccine accessible to all health care providers, medical staff and volunteers.

