



Infection Control News by Resurgent Health and Medical

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[Scientists Identify Successful 'Anti' Antibiotic That May Help Curb Rising Staph Infections](#) - Medical News Today

['Superbug' Test Detects MRSA Faster](#) - Medicine Net

[The Doctor's Hands Are Germ-Free. The Scrubs Too?](#) - The New York Times

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Feature Article

October Brings Change to Infection Control

October is upon us and with this new month brings a myriad of change. The season is changing, the leaves are changing colors, and for the healthcare field, October brings some transformations.



As of October 1, 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is no longer reimburse hospital claims for infections that are acquired during a hospital stay. The infections that are no longer covered are catheter-associated urinary tract infections (UTIs), catheter-associated blood stream infections, mediastinitis, and surgical site infections following specified orthopedic procedures and bariatric surgery for obesity. Additional HAI's will be added to the list next year.

Also, next week is International Infection Prevention Week from October 19-25, 2008. Fittingly, this year's theme is "Infection Prevention is Everyone's Business." With the regulation changes that have been invoked this month, please take this week to raise awareness within your organizations and educate staff on ways to reduce the spread of HAI's.

For more information on the changing regulations, go to the [CMS](#) website.

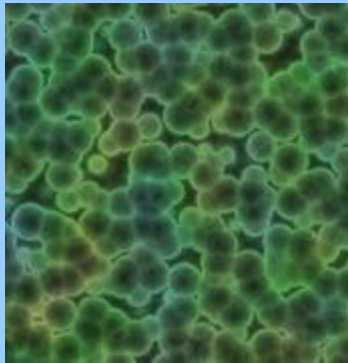
For more information on International Infection Prevention Week, visit www.apic.org.

Focus on Policy

[Sterile Environment](#) - Today's SurgiCenter

[Health Bosses Make Superbug Pledge](#) - Norwich Evening News

Resurgent's Handwashing Systems Removed 99.994% of Norovirus in Laboratory Studies



Resurgent, a leader in automated handwashing and sanitizing technology, announced that their handwashing systems removed 99.94% of the Norovirus test organism (feline calicivirus) in independent, clinical laboratory studies. The studies were performed in June 2008 at BioScience Laboratories in Bozeman, MT.

"Most of the public is unaware that Norovirus and other emerging and dangerous pathogens are not killed by alcohol based gel sanitizers." said Jim Glenn, CEO of Resurgent. "The problem is that most of our hospitals and health care facilities rely on alcohol sanitizers as a substitute for

Hospital-Acquired Illnesses Represent 12% of Hospitals' Liability Costs

A new study revealed that hospital-acquired infections, hospital-acquired injuries, objects left in the body after surgery and pressure ulcers make up more than 12% of hospital liability costs. The study also showed that one out of six liability claims filed against health care entities is connected to infections, injuries, and other conditions that have been attained at the hospital.



The 2008 Hospital Professional Liability and Physician Liability Benchmark Analysis was released September 29, 2008 by Aon Corporation and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management, in an attempt to give health care risk managers a clearer understanding of their cost of risk compared to the industry benchmark.

Beginning October 1, 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are no longer reimbursing health care entities for 10 areas of hospital-acquired conditions or medical errors.

Read the findings [here](#)

Infection Control Guidelines Issued

The nation's top epidemiological societies, along with the American Hospital Association and the Joint Commission, have written a new set of guidelines to prevent six lethal conditions and improve infection control in the nation's hospitals.

The guidelines offer instruction on what hospitals should and should not be doing to prevent the spread of infection. They also offer guidance on alternate options if first-line measures do not improve infection rates.

The six conditions that are addressed in the guidelines include: central-line associated bloodstream infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, surgical site infections, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, and Clostridium difficile.

To read the rest of the article, go to [The New York Times](#)

To view the guidelines, go to [Chicago Journals](#)

Infection Control News

good handwashing practices. The use of alcohol is simply not effective against Norovirus, whether it is in a health care setting or in a public place like a cruise ship. The effectiveness of our systems in eliminating Norovirus from the hands after a 15 second wash represent, we believe, a breakthrough in finding ways to combat this growing problem. "

View the whole press release [here](#)

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Discover the latest employee hygiene and infection control news for the healthcare industry. Join our mailing list today!



About Us



APIC Calls for Annual Flu Immunization for Healthcare Workers

Personnel Who Decline Must Acknowledge Risk To Patients

In response to the low rates of influenza immunization among healthcare personnel, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) announced its support for requiring flu immunization for healthcare workers who have direct patient contact as well as ancillary staff. APIC further recommended that healthcare facilities obtain informed statements acknowledging the risk to patients from employees who decline the vaccine for reasons other than medical.



"We must do a better job of immunizing healthcare workers every year to ensure patient safety and protect those individuals at high risk of developing complications of influenza," said Linda R. Greene, RN, MPS, CIC, lead author of APIC's position paper and director of infection prevention and control at Rochester General Health System. "Despite longstanding recommendations by government agencies and national healthcare organizations, only 42 percent of healthcare workers receive yearly flu vaccines. Voluntary efforts are clearly not effective - it's time for hospitals and other healthcare facilities to require influenza immunization."

View the press release [here](#)

International Infection Control News

Ontario Hospitals Need to do More to Prevent Patient Infections

Ontario hospitals have a track record of success in keeping patients safe from infections, such as MRSA and C. difficile, but there is still room for improvement.



Three Ontario healthcare facilities were audited by General Jim McCarter to assess what the hospitals' efforts were to prevent the spread of deadly infections to patients.

The findings show that the even though infection control procedures are set in place, there is no follow-up. The current infection control programs are improving overall hand-hygiene compliance, but issues such as staff use of protective gear (i.e. gloves, gowns, masks, etc.) and equipment sterilization require more attention.

Read the rest of the article [here](#)

Healthcare News

Resurgent Health and Medical offers the only fully automated handwashing equipment for the healthcare industry.

Our systems wash, sanitize and rinse hands in a touch-free, 12 second cycle, streamlining your hand hygiene program and improving compliance.

Please visit our website:
www.resurgenthealth.com

Americans Get Low Marks on Hand Hygiene

It is a straightforward and important message: Wash your hands to prevent the spread of disease.



Unfortunately, much of the U.S. population doesn't adhere to this principle.

The Soap and Detergent Association has recently released its 4th Clean Hands Report and the report gives Americans a C-minus.

One finding was that 85% of participants said they wash their hands after making a bathroom trip, compared to 92% in 2006's survey.

To read more of the results, go to [WebMD](#)

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