



Oregon Healthcare-Associated Infections Program

February 2020

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Greetings,

Welcome to Oregon's first Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program newsletter of 2020. This quarterly communication will give information on program activities including new and ongoing HAI projects, learning opportunities, and staff updates. We hope the following information will support you in your work.

Thank you for your commitment to patient safety,

The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) HAI Program

Dialysis Focus at March 11 HAI Advisory Committee Meeting

Join us for a special dialysis-themed meeting of our HAI Advisory Committee! We will present Oregon's dialysis HAI data and results of two recent evaluation and validation projects of these data, as well as hosting a panel of experts who will discuss infection prevention and patient advocacy in the dialysis setting.

Want to learn more about the HAIAC or how you can become involved? Visit this [link](#) or contact [Roza Tammer](#).

C. auris and CPO screening update

Candida auris, an emerging, highly drug-resistant pathogen, is classified by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as an urgent public health threat. Over 900 clinical cases have been found in the United States, though none have been identified in Oregon yet.

CDC screening recommendations include:

- Patients who have had an overnight stay in a healthcare facility outside of the United States in the previous year, especially in countries with documented *C. auris* cases
- Close healthcare contacts of patients with newly identified infection or colonization with *auris* or carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs)

Contact us at 971-673-1111 for screening assistance.

[More information about *C. auris*](#)

[More information about the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network \(ARLN\)](#)

New projects

Launch of CAUTI and UTI Collaboratives

We are recruiting hospitals and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) for our catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) and urinary tract infection (UTI) collaboratives, respectively. Our goal is to reduce rates of CAUTI and UTI while supporting optimal diagnosis and antibiotic use. We will work with facilities to implement and evaluate multi-faceted CAUTI/UTI interventions including urine culture stewardship.

If you have been contacted and would like to participate, please contact [Roza Tammer](#), HAI Epidemiologist for the hospital collaborative and [Alexia Zhang](#), HAI Epidemiologist for the SNF collaborative.

2020 HAI and AU Prevalence Survey

The Oregon Emerging Infections Program (EIP) is recruiting hospitals to participate in the 2020 HAI and Antimicrobial Use (AU) Prevalence Survey. This survey will help:

- Identify target areas to reduce HAIs

- Focus prevention and stewardship efforts
- Decrease inappropriate antibiotic use

If you have already been contacted and would like to participate or would like more information about the survey please contact [Valerie Ocampo](#), HAI Public Health Nurse.

Notice of proposed rulemaking

The HAI Program, in collaboration with our HAI Advisory Committee (HAIAC), is proposing to remove the requirement for hospitals to track and report surgical site infections following laminectomy procedures. If accepted, this proposed change would become effective in April 2020. For additional information, see the recent [Communicable Disease Summary](#) and the [full text of the proposed changes](#), which includes instructions regarding public comment.

NHSN Updates

HAI Reporting: 2019 Internal Validation

We will begin internal validation of 2019 data from hospitals and dialysis facilities that report HAIs to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) in April. Your facility will receive a report and guidance, and will have an opportunity to review and submit corrections to NHSN.

We'd like to announce that Lisa Iguchi is now our primary NHSN epidemiologist. Please reach out to [Lisa Iguchi](#) for technical assistance during this review period and for any NHSN questions or assistance.

Hospitals: Complete your Annual NHSN Facility Survey by March 1, 2020

The 2019 Patient Safety Annual Facility Survey is now available to complete in the NHSN application. After March 1, 2020, facilities will be unable to edit or enter NHSN data until the survey is completed.

NHSN has highlighted changes to the 2019 Annual Surveys in a recent webinar. View the [recording](#) here.

See below for links to the PDF versions of surveys as well as guidance regarding how to complete each question on the survey:

- [Acute Care and Critical Access Hospital Survey](#)
- [Long-Term Acute Care Hospital Survey](#)

[More information about HAI reporting](#)

Learning Opportunities

Upcoming Lunch and Learn Webinars

Implementing Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship in Long Term Care Facilities

Date: February 20th

Guest Speakers: Alina Staub, Director of Nursing Services, Infection Preventionist, Marquis Mill Park, and Kirstin King, Director of Nursing Services, Infection Preventionist, Marquis Marion Estates

[Additional details and registration](#)

Implementing Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship in Critical Access Hospitals

Date: February 26th

Guest speakers: Dr. Dominic Chan, Clinical Coordinator, Legacy Health and Kira Buresh, Quality Improvement Specialist, St. Charles Prineville Hospital

[Additional details and registration](#)

Infection Prevention Fundamentals

Please join us for a free two-day course open to healthcare and public health professionals with an interest in infection control and prevention. Content will be tailored to address the role of the infection preventionist in long-term care and outpatient facilities, however those interested in infection prevention in other settings are welcome to attend.

Date: April 6-7, 2020

Location: DHS Training Center
11826 Northeast Glisan Street
Portland, OR 97220

[Additional details and registration](#)

Oregon Epidemiologist Conference

Come learn about communicable disease in Oregon, meet your state and county public health partners, and join Maureen Cassidy and Roza Tammer for their presentation “Antibiotic Resistance Threats: Knowledge, Prevention and Response.”

Date: April 21-23

Location: Sunriver, Oregon

[More information](#)

HAI Program Staff Spotlight



Join us in congratulating our Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO) Epidemiologist, Maureen Cassidy, on 25 years with the Center for Public Health Practice at OHA! Maureen leads HAI Program responses to high-impact pathogens (carbapenem-resistant organisms, *C. auris*) in healthcare settings, providing essential knowledge to healthcare partners. She also leads our gram-negative pathogen surveillance programs. Thank you, Maureen, for being a wonderful colleague, friend, microbiologist, and epidemiologist-extraordinaire!

Stay in touch

Please ask questions and let us know what topics you’d like to read about in future issues!

Email Roza Tammer, HAI Reporting Epidemiologist, at roza.p.tammer@state.or.us.

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