

CLINICAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Give Antibiotics Before—Not After—Operations

Antibiotics given *after* incision closure have not been shown to prevent surgical site infections and, in fact, drive infection, according to President and CEO of the Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality Dr. Dale Bratzler.

This practice also increases the risk of *C. difficile* infection.

The following four antibiotic practices have been shown to prevent surgical site infections that can occur with complex operations and inadvertent breaks in technique:

- Dose just before incision
- Use the right agent
- Re-dose in the operating room during long operations
- For large patients, give a large pre-op dose

10 Patient Safety Tips for Hospitals from AHRQ

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality offers [evidence-based tips](#) on the following 10 topics to prevent adverse events from occurring in hospitals:

1. Prevent central line associated blood stream infections
2. Re-engineer hospital discharges
3. Prevent venous thromboembolism (VTE)
4. Educate patients about using blood thinners safely



5. Limit shift durations for medical residents and other hospital staff
6. Consider working with a Patient Safety Organization
7. Use good hospital design principles
8. Measure your hospital's patient safety culture
9. Build better teams and rapid response systems
10. Insert chest tubes safely

THIS ISSUE

Data and Public Reporting **2**

Organizational Change **2**

Events **3**

Stratis Health Contacts **4**

Quality Improvement Resources

Download the following recorded Webinars and tools to assist you in improving quality of care at your hospital.

Recorded Webinars

- [CMS National Patient Safety Initiative for Surgical Care: On-going Opportunities](#)
- [Implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs](#)
- [Patient Safety and the Surgical Care Improvement Project \(SCIP\)](#)
- [Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism](#)
- [SCIP Cardiac Measures](#)

(Resources continued on p. 2)

DATA AND PUBLIC REPORTING

Data Submission Reminder

Next quarter of clinical data due to Warehouse: 3Q 2009
(July - September 2009)

Data submission deadline: February 15, 2010
Must use CART version: 4.6



Abstraction Assistance

To receive Stratis Health assistance with abstraction, email Robyn Carlson at rcarlson@stratishealth.org, or call 952-853-8587.

Backlog on QualityNet

RHQDAPU Questions

Multiple problems have arisen over the past several months that have impacted timely responses to QualityNet questions on Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid has evaluated the problems and is implementing the following multi-level action plan:

- Technology system changes are being implemented to improve system functionality and response time.

- Three frequently asked question documents for abstraction Q3 2009 and Q4 2009 for AMI/HF, SCIP, and pneumonia have been posted under [Abstraction Resources](#) on QualityNet.
- All unanswered questions submitted prior to November 15, 2009, were deleted on January 28, 2010. If you have unanswered questions submitted prior to that date, please resubmit them.

CMS will address all remaining questions by March 1, 2010.

(Resources continued from p. 1)

Others Resources

- [CDC Hand Hygiene Saves Lives Video](#) developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, and the Safe Care Campaign.
- [Connection Foley Indicator Tool](#) for surgical care infection prevention.
- [Essential Systems for Quality Care](#) to organize pressure ulcer tools and for screening, assessment, and plans of care.
- [Hospital Bed Safety](#) initiative results on bed rails in hospitals and in long term care and home care settings.
- [Medication Safety Tools and Resources](#) from the Institute for Safe Medication Practices.
- [Updated SCIP Literature Review](#) with new topics on cardiovascular, respiratory, and thromboembolic complications of surgery.
- [VTE Prevention Prophylaxis Policy](#) on roles and responsibilities of physicians and nursing staff in documenting and implementing VTE protocols.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

New IHI OPEN School Online Courses Available for Health Professions Students

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School for Health Professions Students teaches skills in quality improvement, patient safety, teamwork, leadership, and patient-centered care. Students in nursing, medicine, pharmacy, policy, and health administration have access to online courses, certificate programs, and resources, including case studies, podcasts, videos, and featured articles. [More>](#)

EVENTS

Certified Professional Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) Exam Preparation Course March 6, 2010, Minneapolis, MN

The CPHQ exam preparation course will take place at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. The cost of the course is yet to be determined. CEUs have been applied for. Contact Skip Valusek at skipvalusek@comcast.net for more information.

National Patient Safety Awareness Week March 7-13, 2010

Patient Safety Awareness Week is a national education and awareness-building campaign for improving patient safety at the local level.



Hospitals and health care organizations across the country are encouraged to plan events to promote patient safety within their own organizations. Educational activities are centered on educating patients on how to become involved in their own health care, as well as working with hospitals to build partnerships with their patient community. [More >](#)

IHI Web & ACTION Program: Developing Innovative Solutions to Everyday Problems Begins March 10, 2010

Over the course of this Web-based program, health care and non-health care experts will present efficient ways to identify, test, and implement solutions to the difficult problems hospitals face every day. Using case studies and examples, participants learn the principles of innovation, including disruptive innovation and positive deviance; how to collect and scan for ideas; and how to test and implement these ideas to help improve care and patient safety in their organizations.

Offered by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Web & ACTION programs combine intensive expert-led, learning sessions followed by action periods during which participants apply their knowledge in real-time practice through detailed assignments. [More>](#)

Stratis Health and Minnesota Hospital Association Patient Safety and Quality Meetings March 16 – April 29, 2010



Mark your calendar to attend one of the following regional meetings. The meetings offer an opportunity to network and problem solve with peers, as well as provide a forum for quality and patient safety professionals to discuss current issues, common barriers, and success stories. Meetings will include a roundtable on patient safety needs assessment, and updates from the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety, Stratis Health, and the Minnesota Hospital Association. [Register online](#). Questions, contact Mary Montury, mmontury@stratishealth.org, 952-853-8541.

- March 16, Stratis Health, Bloomington
MHA Region 4
- March 17, Redwood Falls Community Center
Redwood Falls, MHA Region 5
- April 6, Hampton Inn & Suites, Bemidji
MHA Region 1
- April 7, Hermantown Clinic, Duluth
MHA Region 2
- April 20, Owatonna Hospital
MHA Region 6
- April 29, St. Cloud, Holiday Inn & Suites
MHA Region 3

Issues & Strategies on Adult Vaccine-Preventable Disease March 19, 2010, Chaska, MN

The Minnesota Coalition for Adult Immunization is hosting its 19th annual conference at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Hear the latest information about seasonal and H1N1 influenza, HPV, and more. For more information, watch your email or contact Mari Drake, 651-428-6591, maridrake@comcast.net.

EVENTS CONTINUED

Minnesota Rural Palliative Care Initiative Outcomes Congress

April 8, 2010, St. Cloud, MN

Palliative care is an approach to managing serious and advanced illness and centers on relieving suffering and improving quality of life for patients and their families. Ten rural Minnesota communities started participating in an initiative in fall 2008 to establish or strengthen palliative care programs in their communities. Learn about the progress of these communities and how to take palliative care to the next level. [More>](#)

Minnesota Stroke Conference 2010: Innovations and Improvements

May 11, 2010, St. Cloud, MN

This year's conference will offer an update on the latest developments in acute stroke treatment and management,

describe strategies and lessons learned in implementing telemedicine for stroke, and share best practice strategies and tools for improving stroke care in Minnesota hospitals with or without an established stroke program. [More>](#)

Minnesota Rural Health Conference: Leading Change for Rural Health

June 28-29, 2010, Duluth

Hear from experts and identify resources to respond to the urgent changes affecting health care today, including federal and state health care reform, electronic health record adoption and use, health care homes, GAMC issues, nursing home and hospital reimbursement, prevention, community health, Medicare and Medicaid HIT incentives, and health care workforce shortages. For more information, contact the Rural Health Resource Center at 218-727-9390 or rhrc@ruralcenter.org.

STRATIS HEALTH CONTACT INFORMATION

Abstraction

Robyn Carlson, Data Quality Specialist
952-853-8587, rcarlson@stratishealth.org

Data and Public Reporting, Drug Safety, Pressure Ulcers

Denise White, Program Manager
952-853-8526, dwhite@stratishealth.org

MRSA and SCIP/HF

Janelle Shearer, Program Manager
952-853-8553, jshearer@stratishealth.org

Utilization and Coding

Betsy Jeppesen, Vice President,
Program Integrity
952-853-8510, bjepesen@stratishealth.org

General Hospital Information

Mary Montury, Program Coordinator
952-853-8541, mmontury@stratishealth.org

Communications

Margaret LeDuc, Editor
952-853-8578, mleduc@stratishealth.org

Stratis Health is a nonprofit organization that leads collaboration and innovation in health care quality and safety, and serves as a trusted expert in facilitating improvement for people and communities.

Stratis Health works toward its mission through initiatives funded by federal and state government contracts, and community and foundation grants, including serving as Minnesota's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization.

President and CEO

Jennifer P. Lundblad, PhD, MBA

Director, Medical Affairs

Jane Pederson, MD, MS

Board of Directors

Kathleen D. Brooks, MD, MBA
Huda Farah, MSc
Nancy Feldman
William E. Jacott, MD
Lucinda Jesson, JD
Dee H. Kemnitz
Michele Kimball
Stephen Kopecky, MD
Clint MacKinney, MD, MS
Alison H. Page, MS, MHA
Michael Spilane, MD
Ruth Stryker-Gordon, MA, RN
Dale Thompson, *board chair*

Stratis Health

2901 Metro Drive, Suite 400
Bloomington, MN 55425-1525
952-854-3306 • 952-853-8503 (fax)
Email: info@stratishealth.org

www.stratishealth.org

This material was prepared by Stratis Health, the Minnesota Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The materials do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 9SOW-MN-6.1-10-51 020810

