

The Quarterly BUG

Infection Prevention Newsletter

UCLA Health System, Quarter 3 2012



Deer Mouse
(*Peromyscus maniculatus*)

Goings on About Town

Hantavirus

On September 13, the National Park Service (NPS) announced a total of 9 confirmed cases of hantavirus infection in people who recently visited Yosemite National Park. NPS officials believe that 8 of the 9 people with confirmed hantavirus infection were exposed to the virus while staying at the Signature Tent Cabins in Curry Village in Yosemite National Park. The other park visitor with hantavirus infection was probably exposed to the virus while hiking or staying at the High Sierra Camps, located about 15 miles from Curry Village. So far, there have been **three fatalities**.

What is hantavirus? Hantaviruses are a group of viruses that may be carried by some rodents. Some hantaviruses can cause a rare but deadly disease called hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. The disease is called HPS for short.

How do people get hantavirus? People get HPS when they breathe in hantaviruses. This can happen when rodent urine and droppings that contain a hantavirus are stirred up into the air. People can also become infected when they touch mouse or rat urine, droppings, or nesting materials that contain the virus and then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth. They can also get HPS from a mouse or rat bite. While HPS is a very rare disease, cases have occurred in all regions of the United States except for Alaska and Hawaii.

In the United States, there has never been a case in which a person with HPS has given the disease to another person.

CTICU on the CUSP: Stopping CAUTI!

Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) can result in increased length of stay, patient discomfort, excess health care costs, and sometimes mortality. Fortunately, most cases of CAUTI are preventable. UHC's national collaborative *On the CUSP: Stop CAUTI* aims to reduce rates of CAUTI in U.S. hospitals by 25 percent. The initiative is working with state hospitals across the country to implement the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) and CAUTI reduction practices in hospital units.



CTICU RNs from left: Alex Wendt,
Katrine Murray, Melissa Moore

Ronald Reagan's Cardiothoracic ICU has taken CAUTI head-on by participating in Cohort 4 of the UHC collaborative. The CTICU team began their journey by viewing the "Science of Safety" videos, which are a key part of CUSP methodology. The "Science of Safety," eloquently introduced by Peter Provonost, MD, is about identifying and addressing system defects that impact safety. Find the "Science of Safety" videos on YouTube!

The CTICU is gearing up for an educational blitz that includes proper indications for Foley insertion, among other things. Great job to the CTICU for being leaders in infection prevention!





International Infection Prevention Week

October 14-20, 2012



Imagine a safer world through infection prevention.

Infection prevention is everyone's business!

Come celebrate all you do with Infection Prevention.

Education & fun for YOU!

Reagan: B-level tables, 10/14-10/19, 11am-1pm



The Multidisciplinary Approach to Preventing Infections



Anesthesia working to reduce central line infections! The anesthesiology department has implemented several changes to central line placement and management with the goal of reducing CVC complications including infection. Ultrasound guidance is now routinely used to help reduce complication rates. The central line kits in the O.R. have been designed with a full body drape to reduce contamination. Chlorhexidine scrub has now universally replaced iodine based solutions, and antibiotic impregnated catheters are available for use in cases where the line is anticipated to be left indwelling for a prolonged period of time, or in high risk patients. Anesthesia has also implemented ICU level care for all cases in which CVC's are used intraoperatively. Providers are instructed to place blue caps on all hubs and I.V. tubing stop-cocks that are in-line with CVC's. Any time a CVC is accessed, providers are instructed to scrub the hub with alcohol wipes for at least 15 seconds. This maneuver is repeated every time the line is accessed, for the duration of the case. These measures ensure that we do everything in our power to reduce CVC-associated infections.

UV Light @ UCLA

UCLA has added another weapon in the arsenal to battle HAIs. After manual cleaning using EPA registered disinfectants, trained EVS professionals will perform a new disinfection process via a mobile UV light-emitting device. Light is delivered in 5 minute sessions.



UV light penetrates bacterial cell walls and deactivates the organism by attacking the genetic material (e.g. DNA). The process leaves no chemical residue or smells. Maintaining a safe environment free of harmful pathogens is everyone's responsibility. Properly performing hand hygiene is still the most effective way to prevent HAI, but UCLA Health System just got a little safer (and a little more cutting edge!) for our patients, staff and visitors.

Want Infection Prevention Education?



Take the IP **FUNDamentals** course!

Wednesday, November 7th

Details will be included in announcements from the Department of Nursing.

Come renew your knowledge, plus learn about hot topics!

Thanks to this issue's contributors!

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