

The Quarterly *BUG*

Infection Prevention Newsletter

UCLA Health System, June 2012



What is *C. diff*? Gram positive spore-forming rod. It's the leading cause of nosocomial-acquired diarrhea in the U.S.

Who typically gets *C. diff*? Illness from *C. diff* most commonly affects older adults in hospitals or in long term care facilities and typically occurs after use of antibiotic medications.

***C. diff*-associated complications?** Dehydration, kidney failure, perforated bowel, toxic megacolon

How is *C. diff* transmitted? Transmission is fecal-oral. *C. diff* is commonly found on hospital surfaces and can survive for months in a room. Place patients with suspected *C. Diff* on Spore Precautions at onset of diarrhea. Wash hands with soap and water to prevent spread.

FUN FACT: "Difficile" means difficult. *C. difficile* is very difficult to grow in a laboratory, which is how it got its name.

June 25-29

Housekeeping is Everyone's Responsibility!

Participate in this week-long awareness campaign geared towards positive reinforcement and recognition for infection prevention and housekeeping efforts **performed by non-EVS staff.**

EVS staff will recognize other hospital staff as they are "caught" in the act of contributing to the general cleanliness of our facilities - even if simply picking up a small item off the floor. EVS staff member presents a note of thanks to the other staff member and also awards the nominee a trinket or novelty item.

People who are "caught" being helpful may use their thank you note as a raffle ticket by completing the reverse side and returning it to the EVS Staffer who will see that they get

entered to **win an iPad.**

The drawing is Friday, June 29th!!



PICC Service: Leaders in Infection Prevention

The CDC recommends the use of maximal sterile barrier (MSB) precautions for all central venous catheter (CVC) insertions, including PICCs. Studies have shown use of MSB decreases the patient's risk for catheter-related blood stream infections. All PICCs placed at UCLA now come in kits containing the recommended maximal barrier components including cap, mask, and a sterile full body drape.

Measuring to Achieve Patient Safety (MAPS)

Way to Go MAPS Volunteers!

MAPS student volunteers demonstrate commitment to infection control. More than 50 volunteers perform 6,000 hand hygiene audits a month! MAPS audits have shown an increase in compliance with proper hand hygiene. **This summer the group will work on putting together an audit tool for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).** Correct PPE use has been a problem in the inpatient setting. We hope the PPE audit will help decrease improper use of PPE.

Infection Prevention

Policies AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

1. www.mednet.ucla.edu. Navigate to policy portal.
2. Choose "Infection Control" from the category drop-down menu.
3. What's covered? *MRSA surveillance, MRSA & VRE clearance, isolation for all types of germs, workplace exposures, central line insertion practices, cleaning and disinfection, sterilization.*



CDC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES IN AMBULATORY CARE SETTINGS

- Use aseptic technique when preparing and administering medications
- Cleanse the access diaphragms of medication vials with 70% alcohol before inserting a device into the vial
- Never administer medications from the same syringe to multiple patients, even if the needle is changed.
- Do not reuse a syringe to enter a medication vial or solution
- Do not administer medications from single-dose or single-use vials, ampoules, or bags or bottles of intravenous solution to more than one patient
- Do not use fluid infusion or administration sets (e.g., intravenous tubing) for more than one patient
- Dedicate multidose vials to a single patient whenever possible. If multidose vials will be used for more than one patient, they should be restricted to a centralized medication area and should not enter the immediate patient treatment area (e.g., operating room, patient room/cubicle)
- Dispose of used syringes and needles at the point of use in a sharps container that is closable, puncture-resistant, and leak-proof.
- Adhere to federal and state requirements for protection of HCP from exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

Thanks to this issue's contributors!

**Sherryl Chavez (Ambulatory), Kelly Peck (EVS), Anita Piano (PICC team),
Dana Russell (Infection Prevention), Teresa Zaroda (Infection Prevention), Cait Walsh (MAPS)**