



Infection Control News by Resurgent Health and Medical

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Feature Article

APIC Urges All 50 States to Proclaim International Infection Prevention Week, October 19-25, 2008



To bring greater attention to the critical need to protect patients and the public from the risk of infection, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) urges every state to recognize International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW) October 19-25, 2008. APIC's goal is to have all 50 states and Congress issue proclamations recognizing IIPW 2008.

With the theme of "Infection Prevention Is Everyone's Business," this year's events will highlight the work of infection preventionists throughout the world. Infection preventionists direct interventions that protect patients from healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in clinical settings. They work with clinicians and administrators to improve patient and systems-level outcomes and reduce HAIs and related adverse events.

[Access the full press release here](#)

Global Handwashing Day

The first-ever Global Handwashing Day will take place on Wednesday, October 15, 2008. The UN General Assembly has designated 2008 the International Year of Sanitation, and Global Handwashing Day will echo and reinforce its call for improved hygiene practices. Global Handwashing Day will be the centerpiece of a week of activities that will mobilize millions of people in more than 20 countries across five continents to wash their hands with soap and water.

[Superbugs: The New Generation of Resistant Infections is Almost Impossible to Treat](#) The New Yorker

[What's Coming From Your Tap?](#) The Wall Street Journal

[Community-Associated Staph Infections Involving Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Increase](#) Health Talk

[Is C.Diff the New MRSA?](#) Market Watch

Germ Spotlight



Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)

Enterocci are bacteria that are naturally present in the human intestinal tract and in the environment.

Some strains of enterococci have become resistant to vancomycin, the only antibiotic shown to be effective in its

To learn more, visit:

[World Health Organization](#)

[Global Handwashing Day - A Planner's Guide](#)

[Global Public Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap](#)

Focus on Policy

APIC Statement on New CMS Payment Regulations



"Beginning October 1, 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will no longer reimburse hospitals for costs related to three infections acquired during a hospital stay: catheter-associated urinary tract infections (UTIs), catheter-associated blood stream infections, and mediastinitis (a deep infection following coronary artery bypass surgery).

On July 31, CMS announced that surgical site infections following certain orthopedic procedures and bariatric surgery for obesity will also be added to the list of conditions for non-payment.

"We are pleased that CMS took the comments of infection preventionists into consideration when drafting the new regulations. APIC's 12,000 infection preventionists work daily to educate healthcare workers and lead performance improvement initiatives that save both lives and scarce healthcare dollars. We appreciate that the agency based their decision to add new conditions on whether they could be considered reasonably preventable through application of evidence-based guidelines.

[Read the Press Release here](#)

New Massachusetts Law Includes HAI Reporting

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick put a new bill, Senate number 2863, into effect on August 10, 2008 that requires healthcare facilities to post data about healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and other serious reportable events on the State Department of Public Health's website. The broad healthcare cost containment/quality control bill's language doesn't detail specifics about how the HAI reporting provision is going to be executed.

[Read the bill here](#)

treatment. These resistant strains are referred to as VRE.

VRE can cause infections of the urinary tract and the bloodstream. Most cases are not difficult to treat, but occasionally VRE can become life threatening.

Most VRE infections occur in hospitals. Serious VRE infections occur in patients with weakened immune systems or who have serious illnesses such as cancer, blood disorders, kidney disease, or immune deficiencies.

VRE is spread by direct contact with hands, environmental surfaces, or medical equipment that has come in contact with bodily fluids of an infected person. Healthcare workers can spread the bacteria by not using good hand hygiene practices.

When caring for a person infected with VRE, it is important to use disposable gloves and frequently wash the hands with soap and water before and after coming in contact with the patient

Infection Control News

As MRSA Spreads, the Safety and Cleanliness of MRIs Raises Concerns



MRIs are often not properly cleaned, thus raising concerns over the potential spread of MRSA during radiological scans.

A major concern for imaging centers is that MRSA can be carried by asymptomatic patients, and so it is impossible to detect which patients could pose a threat to the safety of others.

"Any patient lying on an imaging table could be a carrier capable of contaminating surfaces in the radiology suite," said Peter Rothschild, M.D., who is attempting to transform the MRI community's attitude concerning infection control. He adds, "MRSA and other pathogens can live in common MRI table pads and positioners for periods as long as several months."

Another issue is that infection control is often overlooked in radiology, which results in the spread of MRSA.

Go to [Medical News Today](#) to read the whole article

Hand Washing: Time Well Spent

We Need Carrots and Sticks to Reduce Infection Rates

Few realize that our bodies are like petri dishes teeming with 300 trillion organisms. Our hands are like swabs for the transmission of antibiotic-resistant bacteria such as MRSA, pseudomonas, and C. difficile.

But despite recommendations, nearly 60 percent of healthcare workers do not wash their hands while on duty.

What can be done to improve hand washing rates? First of all, we must admit that the "Just do it!" approach of the past 150 years has failed. Behavioral theory tells us that modifying behavior in a change-resistant culture cannot be accomplished with a single intervention.

We need a carrot-and-stick approach. Let the carrot be a campaign of incentives and awards for hand washers, and let the stick be a more aggressive approach to monitoring hand washing, with punishment and consequences for the worst offenders.

Starting in October, Medicare will no longer pay for complications arising from certain hospital-acquired infections, which in many cases result from poor hand hygiene. This will be a powerful incentive for healthcare executives to

It is also necessary to routinely clean bed rails, toilets, and commodes with a bleach solution or hospital-grade disinfectant.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that during 2006-2007, enterococci caused about one of every eight infections in hospitals and about 30% of these were antibiotic resistant.

What puts people at risk?

1. Extended use of vancomycin or other antibiotics.
2. Being hospitalized.
3. Having a weakened immune system.
4. Undergoing surgical procedures.
5. Use of medical devices that are left in the body for some time, such as urinary catheters or central intravenous (IV) catheters.

For more information, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 800-CDC-INFO

Information for this

improve handwashing compliance.

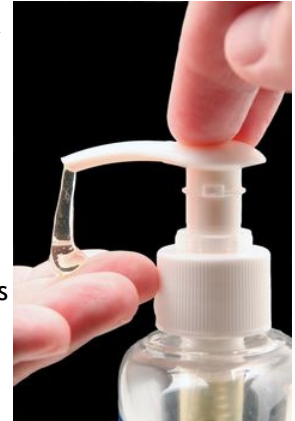
[Read the full article here](#)

International Infection Control News

Call For Ban on Alcohol Gels Due to Lack of Effectiveness

One of Scotland's most senior doctors has called for alcohol gel hand-rubs to be removed from hospitals because they are ineffective against the deadly *Clostridium difficile* superbug.

Alcohol hand-rub dispensers have been placed in wards and clinical areas throughout the country largely to combat another superbug, MRSA. However, they do not provide any protection against deadly *C. diff*.



Dr. Charles Saunders, head of the British Medical Association's Consultants' Committee in Scotland, said most doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals are unaware that the gels were ineffective and they must wash their hands with soap and water between contact with each patient. Saunders believes that the dispensers should be removed because they are creating confusion about the best method of infection control.

[Access the whole story here](#)

Healthcare Staff Told: Clean Your Hands at the Point of Care to Save Lives

In England and Wales, the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has reissued its alert on hand hygiene to emphasize its importance as a major factor in controlling infections.

The alert is applicable to all NHS staff in England and Wales who have direct contact with patients. The alert states that healthcare staff who are in the patient's immediate environment where treatment takes place need to be aware of good hand hygiene.

[Read the whole article here](#)

Hospitals on Alert As Drinkers Steal High-Alcohol Hand Gels Used in Battle Against Superbugs

People have been getting sick and dying after drinking alcohol based hand gels used to disinfect hands in healthcare facilities. The gels contain approximately 70% alcohol.

At least two people have died this year after drinking the gel and Lewisham

article was taken from:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[New York State Department of Health](#)

hospital in South East London confirmed 10 cases where people had stolen the gel from its building.

Hospitals are being forced to remove the gel from public areas and place it only in secured areas where the dispensers can be monitored.

[Read the full article here](#)

Healthcare News

Resurgent Health and Medical Announces Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota has Ordered 25 CleanTech Automated Handwashing Systems

Resurgent Health and Medical, a leader in automated handwashing and sanitizing technology, announced that Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota has ordered 25 CleanTech IC handwashing systems for its locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The hospitals will have the units located in various hallways for all medical staff, patients and visitors to use.

[Access the full press release here](#)

HCA Teams with Disney Star to Promote Handwashing and Prevent MRSA

The HCA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Nashville-based healthcare company Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), has launched the "Clean Hands are Cool Hands" back to school campaign in an effort to help prevent the spread of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA).



HCA teamed with popular teen actor and recording artist Mitchel Musso, best known for his role as "Oliver" in the Disney Channel series Hannah Montana, to create a public service announcement educating kids and their parents on the importance of hand washing to prevent the spread of MRSA in schools.

To read the whole story, [click here](#)

[Clean Hands are Cool Hands Campaign](#)

[HCA Foundation](#)

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



About Us



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

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