



July Activities

“Stick It to the Germs” Patient Activity

In July, the Network invited all in-center hemodialysis facilities to participate in a patient hand hygiene activity, titled, “Stick It to the Germs”.

“Stick It to the Germs” is a one-day (per shift), voluntary activity that involves promoting CDC hand hygiene stickers by awarding patients for following hand hygiene policy. In each facility packet, the Network enclosed CDC hand washing stickers for each dialysis patient. Facilities were asked to use these stickers, as they see appropriate, by September 30. In October, the Network will follow up with facilities with a survey in order to obtain feedback and suggestions.

The Network conducted a pilot of this patient activity in early July, and some of the comments received are listed below:

- The majority of the patients enjoyed the activity and getting the stickers. Some of the patients were “watching” other patients to make sure they washed their hands in order to get a sticker.
- Not all patients wanted to participate.
- Staff thought it was fun.
- Some patients got even more involved by observing staff and giving them stickers when they washed their hands.

If you participate in this patient activity, and find that your patients and staff respond well and enjoy it, we encourage you to print more stickers from the CDC website. The stickers can be downloaded from the link provided below and can be printed on Avery round labels, #5293.

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/resources/stickers.html>

Webinar

Meredith Kanago, MSPH, Epidemiologist with the Tennessee Department of Health, presented a webinar entitled, “Dialysis Event Reporting”, on July 18. Topics covered during the presentation are listed below:

- NHSN Dialysis Event Protocol
- Data Reporting Requirements
 - ◊ Outpatient Dialysis Center Practices Survey
 - ◊ Monthly Reporting Plan
 - ◊ Denominators for Outpatient Dialysis form
 - ◊ Numerator: Dialysis Event form
- Reporting Timeline
- Dialysis Event Definitions

If you were unable to attend the webinar and would like copies of the presentation slides, please email Kristi Durham at KDurham@nw8.esrd.net.

HAI Educational Checklist

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This contract year, CMS has instructed the Network to encourage all facilities to participate in CDC HAI training activities. In order to meet this contract requirement, Network 8 developed an HAI Educational Training Checklist, and this checklist was emailed to all nurse managers on February 26. If your facility completes all modules by October 3, 2014, your facility will receive recognition in the form of a certificate, which can be framed and posted within the facility. Completed checklists can be faxed to Kristi Durham at 601-932-4446.

A Word from the Tennessee Department of Health

As you may be aware, healthcare-associated infections related to outpatient dialysis are reportable to CMS and the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) as of October 2012. The healthcare-associated infections (HAI) team here at TDH has been working with NHSN for many years, and is more than happy to share our expertise and assist facilities with reporting of dialysis events through this system.

In order to further assist facilities with infection control, TDH uses our access to NHSN data to monitor trends in infection rates for identifying potential clusters of HAIs in both inpatient and outpatient healthcare settings in Tennessee. For this reason, if we notice an unusual increase in dialysis events at your facility, we may contact your facility over the phone, along with a representative of Network 8. As we are not a regulatory group, these phone calls are merely meant to determine if there is any assistance we can provide to help bring your facility's infection rate down. Please keep in mind that these are primarily educational opportunities – again, our main goal is to assist you in keeping patients safe.

Additionally, TDH will soon begin looking at dialysis event data each month to check whether it is complete and free of common reporting errors. Each facility's data entry contact person (whom we will identify with the help of Network 8) will receive a monthly quality report containing either a summary of errors, or indicating that their data is complete. These reports will also alert you to potential issues that may prevent your data from being properly transmitted to CMS. Be on the lookout for the first of these reports in late 2014 or early 2015. Remember: the TDH HAI team is here to help you! You can reach us anytime at HAI.Health@tn.gov, or by phone at 615-741-7247. We appreciate all your hard work, and we look forward to working with you in the future to keep Tennessee dialysis patients safe.

NHSN Reporting Deadline

Per CMS, the following data must be entered into NHSN by **September 30, 2014**:

2nd Quarter 2014 (April 1 – June 30) Dialysis Event data

Please make sure at least one individual at your facility can access NHSN via an active digital certificate or SAMS and has been assigned appropriate user rights in NHSN so they may enter and view the facility's data. To ensure your data have been correctly entered into NHSN, please make sure to verify that your monthly reporting plans are complete, you've entered appropriate summary and event data, and you've cleared all alerts from your NHSN facility homepage.

For additional guidance on ensuring your data are accurately sent to CMS for Quality Reporting purposes, please visit the CDC website and navigate to the appropriate section(s) for your facility type:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/cms/index.html>.

HAI QIA Midpoint Feedback

In August, the Network obtained feedback from the 85 facilities that are participating in the HAI QIA, Reduce Rates of Dialysis Facility Events. These 85 facilities conduct monthly audits, using the following CDC audit tools:

- Hemodialysis hand hygiene observations
- Catheter connection and disconnection observations
- Arteriovenous fistula/graft cannulation observations

These audits have been helpful in identifying deficiencies in infection control practices by bringing a focus on staff compliance/noncompliance with infection control policies, and identifying a need to remind patients to wash their hands before and after entering the dialysis clinic, as well as wearing a glove to hold pressure on the needle site post treatment. Several facilities also stated that the audits have been positive for the clinic in order to reinforce the goal to be infection free.

We encourage all facilities to evaluate infection control practices to determine if there are any deficiencies that need correcting. If your facility is doing well in this area and has a best practice regarding infection control, please send it to Kristi Durham at kdurham@nw8.esrd.net.