

Program to Reduce Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs)

Prevention of Healthcare Associate Infections (HAI) and Multi-Resistant Organism (MRO) colonisations is one of the key patient safety and clinical quality initiatives for NSW Health.

Principle

Every patient has the right to receive appropriate health care and leave hospital without a HAI or MRO colonisation.

Goal

The goal of our program is to prevent every patient from acquiring a HAI or MRO colonisation during all stages of their care and treatment.

Target

The targets for the program are to reduce HAIs and MRO colonisations by 10 per cent 2008/2009, 50% by 2010/2011 and 80% 2013/2014.

Our focus is to reduce...

- Bloodstream infections (BSIs):
 - associated with Intensive care Unit (ICU) centrally and peripherally venous catheters
 - attributed to *Staphylococcus aureus*
- Surgical site infections (SSIs) in patients undergoing cardiac bypass graft and joint replacements
- Transmission of multi-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Acinetobacter baumannii* (MRAB) colonisations in ICUs.

Measuring performance

- Rate of ICU CLABs per 1000 patient days.
- Rate of *Staphylococcus aureus* BSIs per 10,000 occupied bed days.
- Rate of surgical site infections (SSIs) in patients undergoing cardiac bypass graft and joint replacements per 100 procedures.
- Rate of multi-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Acinetobacter baumannii* (MRAB) colonisations in ICUs per 1000 patient days.

Strategies to reduce HAIs

- Hand hygiene.
- Correct antibiotic usage.
- Adherence to ICU central venous catheter insertion guideline.
- Adherence to contact precautions.
- Effective environmental cleaning programs in clinical care and treatment areas.

Area Health Service executives can achieve this by:

- developing a management approach that clearly assigns responsibility to line managers for implementing strategies and reducing HAI rates
- implementing a system of regular monitoring, review and corrective action at unit level
- regularly reviewing performance and recognising excellent performance.