



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT  
4300 CHERRY CREEK DRIVE SOUTH  
DENVER, COLORADO 80246

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**COLORADO HEALTH FACILITY  
ACQUIRED INFECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 30, 2010  
MINUTES**

*Note: These are a summary of the proceedings and motions of the March 30, 2010, meeting of the Colorado Health Facility Acquired Infections Advisory Committee (CHFAIAC).*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Paul Poduska, Chair, called the March 30, 2010, Colorado Health Facility Acquired Infections Advisory Committee (CHFAIAC) to order at approximately 2:05 p.m. at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado, 80246.

**Members Present (In Person)**

Ms. B. Burton; Ms. Sue Mazula; and Mr. Paul Poduska (Chairperson).

**Members Present (Via Teleconference)**

Ms. Heather Gilmartin; Ms. Amber Miller; Dr. Allison Sabel; and Ms. Debbie Teetzel.

**CDPHE Staff Present**

Dr. Wendy Bamberg; Dr. Ned Calonge; Ms. Wendy Griffin; Ms. Tamara Hoxworth; Ms. Judy Hughes; Ms. Sara Reese; Mr. Howard Roitman; and Ms. Allison Wheeler.

**Guests and Visitors Present**

Ms. Crystal Berumen (representative, Colorado Hospital Association); Ms. Paddy O'Rourke (minutes recorder).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Allison Wheeler presented the draft minutes from the January 26, 2010, meeting of the Colorado Health Facility Acquired Infections Advisory Committee.

*MOTION*

**MOVED BY PAUL PODUSKA, SECONDED BY SUE MAZULA, TO APPROVE THE DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 26, 2010, MEETING OF THE COLORADO HEALTH FACILITY ACQUIRED INFECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

*MOTION CARRIED*

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**PREVENTION  
COLLABORATIVE UPDATE**

*Tamara Hoxworth*

Tamara Howxorth reported that a prevention collaborative recruitment webinar was conducted on March 4, 2010. A total of 22 facilities will participate in the collaborative: 13 facilities will participate in both surgical site infection (SSI) prevention and Clostridium difficile (C. diff) prevention measures; 5 facilities will participate only in SSI prevention measures; and 4 facilities will participate only in C. diff prevention measures. Handbooks have been written and the schedules for meetings and webinars have been finalized. There was a highly attended kickoff meeting on March 25, 2010. Connie Price and Crystal Berumen recruited excellent speakers. A Center for Disease control and Prevention (CDC) questionnaire

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regarding baseline C. diff prevention measures was distributed, and there were 12 respondents.

Discussion followed regarding: funding has been received by facilities that have completed their commitment forms.

## **TOPIC FOR NEXT BULLETIN**

Allison Wheeler asked the committee members to decide on a topic for the next bulletin. SSIs for joints and central-line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs) were considered. She also noted that in order to release the bulletin in May 2010, the data needs to be reviewed at the April meeting.

Discussion followed regarding: difficulty for ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) to track post-procedure infections; surveillance guidelines/protocols are needed; surveillance guidance paper went out previously; working with CASCA to develop protocols; SSI validation is hoped to start next year; timing of report needs to allow a full year for infections data to be reported; legislative mandates dictate reporting timeframes; NHSN reporting timeframes; tradeoff between using more current data that may change versus using older data that is more accurate; fiscal year timeframe versus calendar year timeframe; ASC volumes; cumulative data versus 12-month periods; footnote indicating that data might change could be highlighted; the bulletin does not need to have a full year's worth of data; need to have enough cases and long enough time period for infection surveillance; no national comparisons for outpatient knee transplants; whether to report on only knee transplants versus both hip and knee transplants; using consistent timeframes for hospital data and ASC data; focusing on hospitals in spring bulletin and ASCs in fall bulletin; desire to keep the bulletins relatively short.

- *ALLISON WHEELER WILL PULL DATA FOR BOTH INPATIENT HIP TRANSPLANTS AND INPATIENT KNEE TRANSPLANTS FROM JULY 1, 2008, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008, FOR REVIEW AT THE APRIL MEETING.*
- *ALLISON WHEELER REQUESTED THAT MEMBERS CONTACT SARA REESE WITH INTERESTING DATA TOPIC SUGGESTIONS.*

## **DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL PRE-RELEASE OF ANNUAL REPORT DATA**

Ned Calonge addressed the committee regarding a request by the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) that an embargoed version of the annual State of Colorado Status Report on the Health Facility Acquired Infections Disclosure Initiative be made available prior to public release. The CHA is requesting this information so that hospital CEOs may preview how their facility compares to others in the state.

Crystal Berumen noted that in previous years, the CHA has independently collected this information for its members. However, it has been a time-consuming process for both the CHA and the member hospitals, and the data collected by CHA has not always aligned with that collected by the CDPHE.

Allison Wheeler noted that in the past she has had facilities call her to correct their data (e.g. to report a newly discovered infection). She also noted that she had received e-mails from committee members who were adamantly opposed to pre-releasing data to facilities prior to public release of the report.

Discussion followed regarding: national benchmarks should be more important than statewide comparisons; no other states allow facilities to see the report prior to release; no facilities contacted the CDPHE regarding the data from the 2009 report; workload issues; NHSN's updated national benchmarks caused the rates to change.

Ned Calonge thanked the members for their efforts in helping Colorado prevent health facility acquired infections. He also thanked the members for their input regarding the issue of pre-releasing report data to the CHA. He will discuss the matter further with Howard Roitman and Martha Rudolph before making a final decision regarding this request.

## **ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE CHAIR**

*Allison Daniels Wheeler*

B. Burton, Connie Price and Amber Miller were nominated. B. Burton accepted the nomination, and was elected chair.

Allison Wheeler thanked Paul Poduska for serving as committee chair for the past year.

## **VALIDATION PROTOCOL UPDATE**

*Wendy Griffin and Sara Reese*

Wendy Griffin discussed the validation protocol development. Initially, 4th quarter 2009 CLABSI data will be looked at for validation, and eventually SSI data will also be reviewed. The reviews are planned to begin in June 2010, and it is hoped that half of the 79 hospitals will be visited in the first year and the remaining half will be visited in the second year. Samples will be pulled from positive blood cultures, and the review will be blinded as to whether the infections were reported to the NHSN. An Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval process is being looked at, and it was noted that most other states are exempt from this process. Infection preventionists (IPs) will be asked to fill out an electronic survey regarding how they collect numerator and denominator data, central line days, patient days, blood, etc. This information will be compared with NHSN data, and will help determine where there is room for education and/or prevention. A draft copy of the survey will be sent to the IPs on the committee for review, and it is hoped the survey will be distributed to all hospitals reporting CLABSIs in April. Ideally both rural and urban hospitals will be included in the first round of reviews. The validation protocols are being modeled after successful programs developed in Connecticut and New York.

- *COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE ASKED TO CONTACT WENDY GRIFFIN REGARDING ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL SUGGESTIONS.*

Discussion followed regarding: percentage of blood sample contamination; using random samples versus samples of convenience; random sampling of positive blood cultures versus 100 percent review; excluding cultures based on chart review versus other criteria; using lab line lists for certain pathogens versus using a different method than that used by ICPs; NHSN reported cases versus non-NHSN reported cases; variability in computer systems between facilities.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dr. Wendy Bamberg reported that the EIP healthcare-associated infections program is currently dealing with IRB issues. She hopes that at least one or two additional people will be hired in the next few months. She would like to start building relationships with IPs in order to hear what is going on regarding outbreaks, etc.

Allison Wheeler noted that there will be executive session during the April 27, 2010, meeting. Data will be reviewed for the bulletin. Also, the draft validation protocol will be reviewed.

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The scheduled 2010 meeting dates for the Colorado Health Facility Acquired Infection Advisory Committee are:

April 27, 2010	C1A	2-4 p.m.
May 25, 2010	C1A	2-4 p.m.
June 22, 1010	C1A	2-4 p.m.
July 27, 2010	Snow Room	2-4 p.m.
August 24, 2010	C1A	2-4 p.m.
September 28, 2010	C1A	2-4 p.m.
October 26, 2010	C1A	2-4 p.m.

*Committee members – please note that a secure line and webinar will be set up for all future committee meetings. This will allow committee members to participate in executive session electronically and remotely.*

Meetings scheduled in Building C are accessible only with a card key. Access requires checking in at the front desk of Building A, where you will be issued a temporary card key.

A map with directions to the CDPHE and the current parking situation can be found electronically at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ic/location.html>.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.