



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S. | Denver, CO 80246
303-692-2021 | cdpheofficeofcommunications@cdphe.state.co.us

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CONTACT:

Mark Salley
Communications Director
303-692-2013
mark.salley@state.co.us

Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse
Public Information Officer
303-692-2987

Colorado Hospital-Acquired Infections data shows Colorado better than national averages

DENVER – A new comparison of data regarding hospital-acquired infections shows Colorado hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers have lower infection rates when compared to hospitals nationwide. Health facility-acquired infections are infections that occur during or after treatment for a separate medical condition.

Colorado's Hospital-Acquired Infections Disclosure Act (House Bill 06-1045) was approved in 2006, and requires hospitals and health facilities to report infection data, which then is compiled into two semi-annual reports. This is the first bulletin that compares Colorado data to national data and tracks how Colorado hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers compare to healthcare facilities across the nation.

The bulletin (online at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hf/PatientSafety/HFAI/reports.html>.) focuses on surgical site infections associated with heart procedures, hip and knee replacement (total or partial) procedures, hernia procedures and hysterectomies in Colorado hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers. The reporting period includes surgeries performed from Aug. 1, 2007, through July 31, 2010.

When compared to national infection rates, Colorado healthcare facilities had 40 percent fewer infections associated with heart procedures, 37 percent fewer infections associated with hernia procedures and 7 percent fewer infections associated with all reportable procedures.

Although many hospitals collected and tracked infection data before the law was implemented in 2006, the reporting system ensures hospitals and other facilities are using the

same definitions and data constraints so the information can be compared to state and national rates.

This is the first semi-annual Health Facility-Acquired Infections bulletin released this year. Another bulletin will be released in October, followed by the annual report in January 2012. The annual report will contain information on surgical site infections, central line-associated bloodstream infections and dialysis-related infections.

For more information regarding patient safety and health care associated infections in Colorado, please visit: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hf/PatientSafety/index.html>.

For more information about this bulletin or patient safety initiatives under way at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, please contact the Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division at 303-692-2800 or visit www.healthfacilities.info.

The Health Facility Acquired Infections bulletins are published by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.