California Department of PublicHealth

# HAI PROGRAM INSIDER

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

## Responsibilities of the HAI Advisory Committee:

- Making recommendations on HAI prevention, surveillance and public reporting methods

- Providing input on HAI program initiatives, education and mentorship programs

- Reviewing and offering feedback on CDPH regulation revisions

- Voting on motions if applicable



## What is the HAI Advisory Committee?

The HAI Advisory Committee was created by legislative mandate to make recommendations to the California Department of Public Health on the prevention, surveillance, and reporting of HAIs. Its aim is to build a coalition that fosters input from multiple perspectives—including health care consumers, physicians, nurses, infection preventionists, and local health departments—to determine the most effective ways to decrease HAI cases.

Since its founding, the HAI Advisory Committee has worked to recommend hospital HAI and antimicrobial resistance (AR) prevention strategies, improve HAI surveillance and reporting using National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) protocols, update the California HAI/AR Plan, and create antimicrobial stewardship toolkits.

# HAI Advisory Committee

Voting members of the committee are appointed by the CDPH Director after applying through the [HAI member application site](www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HAI_AC_Member_Recruitment.aspx) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/ CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HAI_AC_Member_Recruitment.aspx). The voting member categories are: local health department officials, infection preventionists, physicians, healthcare providers, hospital administrators, experts in integrated healthcare systems, and healthcare consumers. Nonvoting members include department staff of the CDPH HAI program, as well as liaison members from CA healthcare organizations.

There are currently two active subcommittees, the Antibiotic Stewardship/ Antibiotic Resistance Subcommittee and the HAI Prevention Subcommittee. Each subcommittee is tasked with thoroughly examining more complex issues and providing recommendations that can be proposed to the larger committee for approval.

Meetings of the advisory committee are held quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled for December 8, 2022. Topics of recent meetings have included the CDPH 2022 central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) reduction project, Strengthening HAI/AR Program (SHARP) funding, and the Public Health Infection Preventionist Capacity Externship Program (PHIPCEP).

Find meeting dates, agendas, apply for membership and more on the [HAI-AC page](www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HAICommitteeAndLaws.aspx) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HAICommitteeAndLaws.aspx) CDPH is seeking applications for membership to the HAI Advisory Committee.

[Apply to become a member of the HAI-AC](www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HAI_AC_Member_Recruitment.aspx) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/ Pages/HAI_AC_Member_Recruitment.aspx) to participate in an active process to improve the quality of healthcare for Californians by making recommendations to CDPH on the prevention, surveillance, and reporting of HAI.  Member terms are four years.

## Vacancies

There are vacancies on the HAI Advisory Committee! These positions are currently open:
 healthcare consumer - one (1) vacancy
 hospital administrator professional - two (2) vacancies
 integrated health care systems expert or representative - one (1) vacancy
 local health department official - two (2) vacancies

# 2022 HAI Data Validation for Acute Care Hospitals

The HAI program is implementing a data validation project to assist hospitals with improving surveillance for common HAIs including *C. difficile* infections (CDI), CLABSI, bloodstream infections due to methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) and vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE), and surgical site infections. Past validation projects have shown incomplete case finding in many California hospitals. This initiative aims to ensure HAI data is accurate, improve case-finding and surveillance methods in acute care hospitals, and correct reporting errors.

**Main objectives:**

- **Help hospitals assess completeness of HAI case-finding**

- **Review surveillance and reporting procedures**

- **Create a consistent standard for application of NHSN definitions**

## Completing the validation process:

☑ Review the data validation workbook. This workbook contains all the necessary information to complete the validation process. Validation webinars were held throughout August 2022, recordings and slides are on the Data Validation site.

☑ Submit the summary of findings via online survey by Oct 14th. Data will be aggregated/analyzed and results communicated to the California HAI Advisory Committee. Individualized validation reports to be shared with each hospital.

☑ Although validation is a voluntary process, hospital participation or nonparticipation and follow-up will be noted in the HAI annual public report.

Learn more by visiting the Data Validation webpage (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ACH_Internal_Data_Validation.aspx)

# Current Challenges in HAI

## Monkeypox (MPX)

CDPH recently distributed recommendations to reduce risk of MPX virus transmission to healthcare personnel (HCP) during collection of specimens from lesions for laboratory diagnosis of MPX, including reminders to NOT de-roof lesions and NOT use sharps. The risk of MPX virus transmission from infected patients to HCP is very low; however, cases of occupationally-acquired MPX infection among HCP have been rarely described during the current outbreak.

To date, CDPH has received reports of two California HCP who acquired MPX infection during specimen collection; among eight other cases reported worldwide, transmission was also associated with specimen collection, via: sharps injury (n=3); contact with body fluids (n=3); and contact with contaminated surfaces or items in the home of a patient with MPX (n=2). Additionally, a recent report found that HCP caring for patients with MPX had low adherence to use of the recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).

More detailed information can be found on the CDPH California Health Alert Network (CAHAN) notification page (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/CAHAN/ Healthcare-Provider-Advisory-Guidance-for-Safe-Specimen-Collection-From-MPX-Lesions.aspx)

# Infection Prevention Week

**October 17th-23rd is Infection Prevention Week!**
The HAI Program extends a warm thank you to all infection preventionists and hospital staff that work to prevent healthcare-associated infections!

The HAI Program continues to promote and oversee infection prevention, surveillance, and reporting of HAI and AR in California's hospitals and other healthcare facilities year round, including:

- IP training and assessments to skilled nursing facilities, acute care hospitals, and local health departments
- Detecting and responding to outbreaks and unusual infection occurrences in various healthcare settings
- CLABSI prevention and reduction initiatives
- Data validation to improve HAI surveillance and reporting
- Interventions to prevent and contain AR

Hospitals can continue to promote infection prevention by using proper PPE procedures and using infection prevention protocols to keep staff and patients safe.

Hospitals can continue to promote infection prevention by ensuring diligent application of infection prevention protocols to keep staff and patients safe. You can request additional guidance and support for HAI and AR prevention and control related inquiries from the HAI Program at HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov.

thank you healthcare heroes!

# Antibiotic Awareness Week (AAW)

**AAW is November 18-24.**

There are 2.8 million AR cases each year, and it's estimated that about 30% of prescriptions for antibiotics are unnecessary. The HAI website has resources for getting your healthcare facility involved in AR prevention through improving antimicrobial use:

- Join the Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaboration Network (ASCN) to share updates and ideas related to AR, discuss strategies, and promote collaboration and communication. Learn more through the ASCN listserv (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ASCN.aspx#)
- Discover the importance of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) Honor Roll (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Honor_Roll.aspx)
- View ASP hospital designations on the Honor Roll interactive  map (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HonorRoll_InteractiveMap.aspx)
- Learn more about Antimicrobial Stewardship (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/AntimicrobialStewardshipLandingPage.aspx)
- Learn more about Antimicrobial Resistance (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/AntimicrobialResistanceLandingPage.aspx)
- The CDC provides toolkits offering training and public resources for sharing about antibiotic use. View the CDC's Be Antibiotics Aware Partner Toolkit (www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/week/toolkit.html)
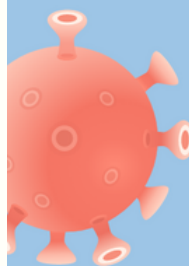
## Tips for Preventing Antibiotic Resistance

1. Antibiotics are lifesaving. Take antibiotics if you have a bacterial infection and prescribed by your doctor.

2. Don't take antibiotics for viral infections, including colds, the flu, or COVID-19. They will not help viral infections.

3. Some ear infections, bronchitis, and sinusitis don't need to be treated with antibiotics. Ask your doctor if antibiotics are advised.

4. If you do take antibiotics, take them exactly as prescribed and don't stop your course early.

5. Don't take antibiotics to prevent yourself from getting sick, and talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you experience side effects while on antibiotics.

Learn more about antibiotic resistance on the HAI website. (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Antibiotics.aspx)

# Register for an Infection Prevention training course



## Infection Prevention (IP) Training for Skilled Nursing Facilities Online Course
(reg.learningstream.com/view/view_month.aspx?as=76&wp=427&aid=HAIP)

This online course provides practical guidance for implementing an infection prevention program in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) using evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections including central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), COVID-19, and pneumonia. Participants will learn how to measure staff adherence to infection prevention care practices and educate and provide feedback to staff. Participants will also learn how to use their facility HAI data to focus infection prevention strategies, conduct an outbreak investigation, and how to implement the essential activities to prevent employee infections. The course includes online office hours to allow participants to ask questions live and provide a flexible experience.

## Local Health Department (LHD) Infection Preventionist Online Course
 (reg.learningstream.com/view/view_month.aspx?as=76&wp=443&aid=HAIP)

This online course provides foundational infection prevention and control training for infection preventionists (IP) and IP specialists working in local health departments. Participants will learn evidence-based recommendations for preventing healthcare-associated infections including CLABSI, CDI, urinary tract infections (UTI), pneumonia, and SSI, as well as the basics of microbiology and antimicrobial resistance, and steps for investigating HAI outbreaks. Participants will learn skills and tools for performing facility-based infection control assessments, measuring adherence to infection prevention care practices, and providing feedback to staff. Participants will also learn how to use facility HAI data to focus infection prevention strategies and how to access additional resources and available support for LHD IPs. This 14-hour self-paced course is designed for public health professionals to work around their schedule and does not have to be completed in one session.

# Get Involved

## Project Firstline

(www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ProjectFirstlineRegistration.aspx)

Project Firstline is a CDC-funded initiative that provides infection prevention and control education and training to frontline healthcare workers. In California, Project Firstline will focus specifically on Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) in SNF. In coordination with public health infection prevention partners, Project Firstline's team of regionally-based infection prevention trainers will offer competency-based health education and training. Together we can reduce HAI in California SNF, and keep our residents safe and healthy!

## Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Honor Roll

(www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Honor_Roll.aspx)

The California Department of Public Health HAI Program is pleased to recognize top performing antimicrobial stewardship programs in California. The goals of the ASP Honor Roll are to promote optimal use of antimicrobials, prevent emergence of AR and CDI, and to showcase California healthcare facility ASP that not only follow national guidelines, but also demonstrate outcomes and engage their local healthcare community.

**Contact Us:**

**HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov**

**www.cdph.ca.gov/HAI**