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Sept. 17-19, 2006 • Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards • Baltimore

**VHA's**  
**Best Practices**  
**Symposium:**  
*Eliminating Hospital-*  
*Acquired Infections*

***About the Symposium***

An estimated one in 20 hospital patients gets an infection while being treated for an unrelated health care problem. That translates into almost two million infected patients each year, nearly 90,000 deaths, and billions of dollars in added costs. What is your organization doing to address this costly problem and create a safer environment for patients?

In the very near future, your organization's infection rates will be publicly available, and your reimbursement will be impacted based on the results. In the midst of growing public scrutiny, the nation is beginning to focus its attention on the staggering impact of hospital-acquired infections, or HAIs. The federal government and at least 10 states are passing laws requiring public reporting of infection rates. Organizations such as JCAHO and the National Quality Forum are setting the standards that will drive even greater transparency of this information.

*That's why VHA is hosting this ground-breaking symposium — to help move health care professionals from awareness to action by disseminating best practices and proven results across the nation.*

# VHA's Best Practices Symposium: Eliminating Hospital-Acquired Infections

Building on VHA's extensive work in helping hospitals eliminate ventilator-associated pneumonia, reduce catheter-related blood stream infections, and prevent surgical site infections, this symposium will connect you to leading experts in the field and practitioners who have successfully eliminated several types of infections within their hospitals. The symposium will highlight the most important clinical and leadership issues that impact HAIs as well as the business case for focusing on specific interventions.

## *The VHA Difference: Our Best Practices Symposiums*

Keeping with the VHA tradition of helping you execute, this symposium focuses on how to implement best practices based on clinical evidence. During the two-day event, you will interact with nationally recognized experts, hear case studies from better-performing organizations, and participate in an action planning session where you will network with faculty and colleagues from across the nation and begin planning your post-symposium action items. The combination of the compact meeting format, topics discussed, planning session and caliber of speakers is a proven platform for generating and transferring knowledge and better practices across the health care systems for those who attend. This is an event that you don't want to miss!

## *Who Should Attend*

This symposium is open to both VHA member and non-member organizations. Those interested in improving their organization's response to hospital-acquired infections will benefit greatly from this symposium, including:

- Chief medical staff
- Chief nursing officers
- Clinical pharmacists
- Clinical service line leaders
- Critical care executives
- Infection control practitioners
- Infectious disease physicians
- Lab executives
- OR supervisors
- Pharmacy executives
- Quality improvement leaders
- Surgical services executives

## *Continuing Education*

### **NURSING**

VHA Inc. is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

This program is designated for 12.60 hours.

Accreditation refers to recognition of continuing nursing education activities only and does not imply Commission on Accreditation approval or endorsement of any commercial product.

### **PHARMACY**



VHA is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmaceutical education. VHA designates this program for a maximum of 10.50 credit hours. Universal Program Number: 546-000-06-043-L04. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: Participants must complete a continuing education registration form, evaluation form and sign in the space required on the evaluation form (for each session if applicable). VHA will mail a continuing education certificate to participants who successfully complete program requirements within 30 days after the educational activity.

### **PHYSICIAN**

VHA Inc. is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

VHA Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 10.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s).™ Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

### **CEU**

VHA Inc. will award 1.050 CEUs to each participant who successfully completes this program. The CEU is a nationally recognized unit of measure for continuing education and training programs that meet certain criteria (1 contact hour = .1 CEU).

## Agenda

**Sunday, Sept. 17**

6 – 8 p.m.

### **Opening Reception/Registration/Exhibits Open**

Join us for cocktails and appetizers while you take advantage of the opportunity to meet other symposium participants and visit exhibitors with innovative solutions to help you combat hospital-acquired infections.

**Monday, Sept. 18**

7:30 a.m.

### **Breakfast/Registration**

8 – 9:15 a.m.

### **State of the Union on Hospital-Acquired Infections**

**John Jernigan, M.D., M.S.**

Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Atlanta

Hospital acquired infections are an increasing area of concern for health care organizations and consumers. The prevalence of many of these organisms is on the rise, and increased attention and vigilance is necessary to help reduce the physical and economic impacts. During this session, Dr. Jernigan will provide an overview of several of the most common and impactful hospital-acquired infections, as well as some potential strategies to help reduce the incidence thereof.

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.

### **Break**

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

### **The Importance of Glycemic Control to Reduce Infection in the Critical Care Patient Population**

**Anthony P. Furnary, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.C.**

Senior Surgeon, Starr-Wood Cardiac Group, Providence St. Vincent Hospital  
Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Oregon Health and Science University  
Portland, Ore.

In recent years, research has evidenced the importance of euglycemia in reducing the incidence of infections in the critical care patient population. During this session, Dr. Furnary will describe the scientific evidence as well as address the clinical and financial impact of maintaining and supporting stringent glycemic control for the critical care patient population. He will discuss the use of a protocol to optimize glycemic control as well as strategies for obtaining stakeholder buy-in for the use of glycemic control protocols.

10:45 – 11 a.m.

### **Break**

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*To register online, visit  
vha.com and under  
Events choose  
“Best Practices  
Symposium: Eliminating  
Hospital-Acquired  
Infections” or contact  
VHA Customer Service at  
(800) 842-5146.*

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11 – 11:30 a.m.

### **Hospital-Acquired Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus**

#### **Edward Septimus, M.D.**

Medical Director, Infectious Diseases and Patient Safety, Billings Clinic  
Billings, Mont.

During this session, Dr. Septimus will discuss the ever increasing impact that MRSA is having on hospitals across the country. Using case studies, he will outline some strategies to reduce the incidence of this resistant organism.

11:30 a.m. – Noon

### ***Clostridium Difficile* Associated Disease: An Emerging Threat to Patient Safety**

#### **Robert C. Owens, Jr., Pharm.D.**

Co-director, Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, Maine Medical Center,  
Portland, Maine  
Clinical Assistant Professor, The University of Vermont at Burlington, College  
of Medicine

During this session, Dr. Owens will provide an overview of the incidence of *Clostridium difficile*, the impact of the disease on patient safety, as well as methods to curb prescribing habits in an attempt to reduce the occurrence of the condition.

Noon – 1 p.m.

### **Lunch/Exhibits Open**

1 – 2 p.m.

### **Reducing the Incidence of Catheter-Related Urinary Tract Infections**

#### **Sanjay Saint, M.D., M.P.H.**

Hospitalist, Ann Arbor VA Medical Center  
Professor of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, University of  
Michigan Health System at Ann Arbor

Catheter-related urinary tract infections remain a significant problem for hospitals and patients. During this session, Dr. Saint will give an overview of the incidence and symptoms of catheter-related urinary tract infections and identify the best practices for reducing the occurrence of this common patient safety problem. He will also demonstrate the economic impact of catheter-related urinary tract infections on your hospital's bottom line.

2 – 2:15 p.m.

### **Break**

2:15 – 2:45 p.m.

### **Staff vs. Staph**

#### **Jon Lloyd, M.D.**

Pittsburgh Project Coordinator  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare Systems  
Pittsburg, Pa.

During this session, Dr. Lloyd will summarize a five year quest at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System to eliminate hospital-acquired MRSA, an initiative that was part of an interagency agreement with the Center for Disease Control. Dr. Lloyd will chronicle the successes achieved to date, continued plans for improvement in the future, as well as activities underway

to spread the learnings from the successful work. Participants will be provided information on how the organization has implemented “Positive Deviance” to achieve an organizational and cultural transformation, as well as strategies implemented at VAPHS to apply evidence-based infection control precautions to reduce MRSA infection rates.

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

**Infection Prevention in Critical Care:  
Success Stories & Better Practices**

**Rick Bassett, R.N., B.S.N., C.C.R.N.**

Center for Heart and Vascular Health Critical Care Services TICU Project  
Manager, St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center  
Boise, Idaho

**Terri Gingerich, B.S.N., R.N., C.C.R.N.**

Critical Care Educator, Porter Valparaiso Hospital  
Valparaiso, Ind.

Two of the nationally recognized Transformation of the ICU hospital project leaders will discuss their success in the control and prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia and catheter-related blood stream infections. In this session, they will describe how their organizations addressed change strategies, barriers encountered, data collection and reporting. Both Porter Valparaiso and St. Luke’s have developed standards in their ICUs that decrease complications and increase positive patient outcomes.

3:45 – 4 p.m.

**Break**

4 – 5 p.m.

**Building the Business Case for Focusing on Hospital-Acquired  
Infections**

**Edward Septimus, M.D.**

Medical Director, Infectious Diseases and Patient Safety, Billings Clinic  
Billings, Mont.

**William Ward, M.B.A.**

Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Baltimore

This session provides a lively exchange between the financial and clinical impacts of infection control on hospital outcomes. Both Dr. Septimus and Mr. Ward are highly regarded core faculty for the VHA Transformation of the Intensive Care Unit program, working with hospitals across the nation to improve patient outcomes in the ICU.

5 – 6:30 p.m.

**Networking Reception/Exhibits Open**

Join us for cocktails and appetizers, and take advantage of the opportunity to meet other symposium participants and visit exhibitors with innovative solutions to help you combat hospital-acquired infections. You have the evening free to explore Baltimore’s many excellent dining options.

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**Tuesday, Sept. 19**

7:30 – 8 a.m.

### **Breakfast**

8 – 8:45 a.m.

### **Antimicrobial Resistance: The Impact on Patient Care and Clinical Practice**

#### **John G. Gums, Pharm.D.**

Professor of Pharmacy and Medicine, Director of the Antimicrobial Resistance Management (A.R.M.) Program, University of Florida at Gainesville

Antimicrobial resistance has become a national health care problem. As resistance to gram-positive and gram-negative isolates continues to climb, institutions are faced with increasing morbidity, mortality and costs. Coupled with an evaporation of antibiotic development by the pharmaceutical industry, the challenges of treating patients with infectious disease continue to mount.

In this session, Dr. Gums will review the impact of antimicrobial resistance in the U.S. and show how resistance is geographically dependent. By showing evidence of resistance to common gram-positive and gram-negative pathogens, Dr. Gums will discuss differences in resistance mechanisms and outline possible interventional strategies to mitigate further resistance development.

8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

### **Using Protocols to Optimize Antibiotic Therapy in the Hospital Setting**

#### **Marin Kollef, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine  
Director of Medical Critical Care and Director of Respiratory Care  
Barnes - Jewish Hospital  
St. Louis

With the increasing prevalence of resistant organisms, the need for vigilant antibiotic stewardship is becoming ever important. During this session, Dr. Kollef will discuss the use of protocols to optimize antibiotic therapy and strategies for obtaining stakeholder buy-in for implementation. He will identify barriers to the use of protocols in the hospital setting as well as methods to overcome the identified barriers to implementation.

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.

### **Break/Hotel Check-out**

10:15 – 11 a.m.

### **Maine Medical Center: A Better Performer in Antimicrobial Stewardship**

#### **Robert C. Owens, Jr., Pharm.D.**

Co-director, Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, Maine Medical Center, Portland, Maine  
Clinical assistant professor, The University of Vermont at Burlington, College of Medicine

During this session, Dr. Owens will provide an overview of the successful Antimicrobial Stewardship program implemented at Maine Medical Center. He will discuss the history of the initiative, barriers encountered during the implementation and the strategies used to create a nationally recognized antimicrobial stewardship program.

11 a.m. – Noon

### Action Planning Session

In this facilitator-led session, you will be guided through a series of questions and exercises that will prompt you to identify what the greatest opportunities for improvement are at your organization, what the most significant challenges are to capitalizing on those opportunities, and finally what are the two to three items you can implement as soon as you return home. Faculty from the symposium will be available during this time to answer questions and provide personalized feedback.

Noon

### Adjourn

Noon – 2 p.m.

### Regional Office Sessions

VHA Central Atlantic	VHA Metro	VHA Pennsylvania
VHA East Coast	VHA Northeast	VHA Upper Midwest
VHA Empire State		

As an extension of this symposium, several VHA offices will hold brief member sessions for program planning and networking designed to accelerate improvement efforts. The sessions will begin immediately following the adjournment of the symposium. Lunch will be served.

*Members are encouraged to participate; please contact your local VHA office for more information.*

### Registration

	Through Aug. 18	After Aug. 18
VHA members	\$595	\$695
Non-VHA members	\$695	\$795

### Cancellation

Registration cancelled after Aug. 28 and before Sept. 11 will be refunded 50 percent of the conference rate paid. Cancellations received after Sept. 11 will not be refunded.

### Hotel Information

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards, 110 S. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. (410) 962-0202

VHA has reserved a block of rooms for a rate of \$169 per night (plus taxes and fees). Reservations can be made by calling Marriott reservations at (800) 228-9290 or the hotel directly at (410) 962-0202. Guests should identify themselves as attendees of the “VHA Hospital-Acquired Infections Symposium” to receive the group rate. Reservations should be made by the hotel room **reservation cut-off date of Monday, Aug. 28**. The hotel does not guarantee our group room rate after the cut-off date or in the event that the hotel sells out before the cut-off date.

The hotel is located 12 miles from BWI (Baltimore-Washington International) Airport. The estimated taxi fare is \$25 one way.

### Airfare Information

VHA has negotiated special airfares for the symposium on American Airlines. These rates are accessible by calling World Travel Partners at either (469) 522-5434 or toll-free at (888) 256-0390. Reservations must be booked at least seven days in advance for these fares and travel must occur between Sept. 14 and Sept. 23. Rates run between \$539 and \$696 round-trip depending on the departure city. Please refer to contract #A0236SS to receive these special rates.

### Special Assistance

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, VHA will make every effort to accommodate persons with disabilities at the conference. If special assistance is required, please contact Marla Davis [mdavis@vha.com](mailto:mdavis@vha.com).



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Delivering results.

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## **VHA's Best Practices Symposium: Eliminating Hospital-Acquired Infections**

***Sept. 17-19, Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards, Baltimore***

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*Join us this fall and participate in a world-class community of thought leaders and high-performing organizations, working together to eliminate hospital-acquired infections across your organization... and across the nation.*

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VHA is committed to offering you programs and resources to combat hospital-acquired infections, including:

- Accelerated Improvement Network: Eliminating MRSA (Oct. 25) — A new high impact improvement network to help members implement best practices to reduce the impact of MRSA. For more information, contact Betty Wilson at (501) 941-1396 or [bwilson@vha.com](mailto:bwilson@vha.com).
- Case studies from VHA's Transformation of the ICU and Transformation of the O.R. programs. Access these lessons learned from successful process improvement programs in the areas of reducing and preventing ventilator-associated pneumonia, central line infections, surgical site infections and severe sepsis on [vha.com](http://vha.com) > News Room > Member Success Stories.
- Satellite broadcasts, webinars and improvement networks. Check in regularly to [vha.com](http://vha.com) to see the latest HAI opportunities.

More information will be available through [vha.com](http://vha.com). Stay tuned!