





Health care-associated infections


WHO Global Patient Safety
Challenge

October 2005 was launched the first World Alliance for Patient Safety

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- ✦ 2005-2006 the Global Patient Safety Challenge is focussing on health care-associated infections with the theme **Clean Care is Safer Care**
 - ✦ three major elements:
 - ◆ 1) Hand hygiene in health care
 - ◆ 2) Clean care is safer care e.g. clean environment
 - ◆ 3) Action against health care-associated infections
 - ✦ 2006-2007 the Global Patient Safety Challenge is focussing on the topic of safer surgery with the theme **Safer Surgery Saves Lives**


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- ✦ At any time given 1,4 milj people worldwide are suffering from an infection acquired in a health facility. The risk of acquiring health care-associated infections in developing countries is 2 – 20 times higher than in developed countries
 - ✦ Worldwide at least 1 in 4 patients in intensive care will acquire an infection during their stay in hospital. In developing world this estimate may be doubled
 - ✦ e.g.in Trinidad and Tobago as many as two-thirds of patients admitted to intensive care suffer at least one nosocomial infection

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- ✦ In resource poor countries, where the health system needs to deliver care to a population with lower health status and to cope with the lack of human and technical resources the burden of health care-associated infections is even more important
 - ✦ In Mexico health care-associated infections are the third most common cause of death for the entire population
 - ✦ Although the estimates of the preventable health care associated infections vary the proportion of all hospital infections may be as high as 40 % or more in developing countries: Asia, Latin-America and sub-Saharan Africa (1997)
 - ✦ Nosocomial infections are widespread, important contributors to morbidity and mortality: increasing numbers and crowding of people,



more frequent impaired immunity, aging, new micro-organisms, increasing bacterial resistance to antibiotics

- Infections occurring more than 48 hours after admission are usually considered nosocomial, the infection was not present or incubating in the time of admission
- The last two decades have seen the greatest increase in nosocomial infections in hospitals in developing countries where infectious diseases remain the leading cause of death
- ✦ Surgical site infections are leading cause of illness and death certain hospitals in sub-Saharan Africa
- ✦ In Brazil and Indonesia more than half of the neonates admitted to neonatal units gets health care-associated infection, fatality rate between 12 % - 52%



✦ Nosocomial infections cause considerable human misery and economic impact:

- ◆ USA extra costs US\$ 4500 – 5700 million a year


- ◆ England estimated costs £ 1000 million annually to the National Health Service

- ◆ Trinidad and Tobago use 5 % of their budget to care the nosocomial infections

- ◆ In Thailand some hospitals spend 10 % from the budget on the management of infections, > 40 milj US\$ every year

- ◆ In Mexico these costs represent 70 % of the entire budget of the ministry of health

✦ Information of measures to prevent health care-associated infections has been widely available for years




✦ Overall increase in duration of hospital stay for patients with SSI was 8,2 days, general surgery 9,9 days, gynecology 3 days, orthopedic surgery 19,8

✦ Low-cost and simple practices already exist e.g. hand hygiene remains **the primary measure** to reduce these infections

✦ Failure to apply infection prevention measures favours the spread of pathogens, antimicrobial resistance, particularly important during the outbreaks

✦ The emergence of life-threatening infections e.g. severe acute respiratory syndrome SARS, Ebola and Marburg viral infections, avian flu, riftvalley fever highlight the urgent need for efficient infection control practices in health care settings



✦ Efficient hospital infection control programmes.

✦ These guidelines include

- organization of the infection control,
- management of hospital environment,
- care of high-risk areas and high-risk patients, critically ill patients
- surveillance by itself is an effective process to decrease the hospital infections, monitoring HCAs
- outbreak investigation,
- isolation procedures,
- monitoring and advice safe use of antibiotics
- standard precautions followed
- care of hospital staff: vaccinations, PPE, post-exposure.

✦ Websites and electronical healthnews:

- ◆ WHO,2002,Prevention of hospital-aquired infections, A practical guide

www.who.int/emc

- ◆ Infection A2Z www.healthcareA2Z.org

- ◆ Hospital hygiene and Infection Control

www.int/docstore/water_sanitation_health

- ◆ Infection Prevention Guidelines for Healthcare Facilities with Limited Resources

www.reproline.jhu.edu

- ◆ Healthcare waste management

www.healthcarewaste.org

- ◆ WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in health care

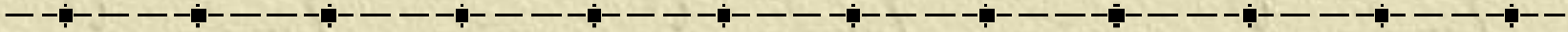
www.who.int/patientsafety

- ◆ International Federation of Infection Prevention IFIC

www.ific.narod.ru/



✦ HealthNet News-Nursing – monthly
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