
PUBLIC REPORTING OF PATIENT SAFETY INDICATORS

December 30, 2008

Public reporting began today on three additional patient safety indicators, establishing Ontario as an international leader in patient safety. Ontario began public reporting of *Clostridium difficile* associated disease on September 26, 2008.

The newly-reported patient safety indicators are:

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Staphylococcus aureus is among the normal bacteria that many people have and is commonly found on the skin and in the nose. Some strains of MRSA have become resistant to the most commonly used antibiotics. MRSA is one of a number of hospital-associated infections.

The ministry will release each hospital's quarterly rate and case count of new MRSA bacteraemia. The information will be posted on the ministry website. Bacteraemia is the presence of bacteria in the bloodstream and is referred to as a bloodstream infection.

Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE)

Enterococci are bacteria found in the stomach and bowels of about 19 out of every 20 healthy people. They are also found in the vagina, mouth and throat, and on skin around the anal area. The bacteria can be present in or on the body without causing illness.

Enterococci can get into open wounds or skin ulcers, and cause infection. Less often, they can cause more serious infections of the blood or other body tissues.

Vancomycin is an antibiotic that is used to treat enterococcal infections. Some strains of Enterococci have developed resistance against vancomycin and are said to be Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE). VRE is one of a number of hospital-associated infections.

The ministry will release each hospital's quarterly rate and case count of new VRE bacteraemia. The information will be posted on the ministry website. Bacteraemia is the presence of bacteria in the bloodstream and is referred to as a bloodstream infection.

Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR)

The Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio is a measure that provides a starting point to assess mortality rates and identify areas for improvement. The HSMR is calculated as the ratio of the actual number of deaths to the expected number of deaths among hospital patients. It's adjusted for other factors affecting mortality such as age, sex and lengths of hospital stay.

Public reporting of HSMR is calculated by the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI) and the results are posted annually on their website. The latest results were released on December 11th.

Only certain hospitals are included in the CIHI reporting. Some hospitals' results were not included because they didn't meet CIHI's requirements of at least 2,500 qualifying cases a year. Specialty hospitals were not included because they treat a different type of patient and their information would not be comparable to figures compiled by general hospitals.

HSMR is intended to track a hospital's trend over time and is not designed for comparisons between hospitals.

September, October, November 2008 Data

- 61 cases of MRSA bacteraemia were found and the provincial MRSA rate was 0.02
- 10 cases of VRE bacteraemia were found and the provincial VRE rate was 0.00

This is the first time hospitals have been required to report their MRSA and VRE bacteraemia rates and it will take time to establish a trend.

Four Additional Patient Safety Indicators

On April 30, 2009 the province will begin public reporting on:

- Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia
- Central Line Infections
- Surgical Site Infections
- Hand Hygiene compliance

For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

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