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December 23, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

NEW INFORMATION

The Chief Medical Officer of Health is requesting that public health units contact hospitals in their jurisdictions which report:

1. MRSA and VRE bacteraemia rates that are five times higher than the provincial average and with a case count more than one.

OR

2. Increased rates in all three patient safety indicators (MRSA, VRE and CDAD).

The hospital-health unit discussion can include, but is not limited to, review of surveillance and infection prevention and control measures.

A letter from John McKinley, ADM, Health System Information Management and Investment (HSIMI), detailing the data definitions and collections processes for the April 30, 2009 publicly reported indicators will be forwarded in the New Year.

As you know, this month will be the first time hospitals report MRSA and VRE bacteraemia rates. Some health units will receive additional data with those hospitals that have been flagged based on certain criteria. These criteria include:

1. Hospitals reporting MRSA and VRE bacteraemia rates that are five times higher than the provincial average and with a case count more than one.

OR

2. Hospitals with increased rates in all three patient safety indicators (MRSA, VRE and CDAD).

The Chief Medical Officer of Health will ask these health units to connect with the corresponding hospitals in their jurisdiction identified by these criteria. The hospital-health unit discussion can include, but is not limited to, review of surveillance and infection prevention and control measures.

Public Data Reporting Process Changes

The ministry is introducing several changes to the patient safety public reporting:

- 1) starting with the December 30th public report, the ministry will introduce, for each hospital site, data trending for CDAD reporting. Eventually, the ministry web site will display a graph for each hospital site listing data points for 12 months. In the future, it will be possible to access data from prior to the displayed 12 months.
- 2) as indicated in previous letters, the ministry will list on its web site, hospitals that had a CDAD outbreak in the previous month. The ministry will now report the date the outbreak was declared over.
- 3) the ministry will no longer accept changes to the publicly reported data following the date for hospitals to confirm their data. Hospital data changes will be reflected in the following month's posted data.
- 4) as noted in previous letters, the ministry will identify hospitals on the ministry public web site if they do not submit the required data and/or have data quality issues that are not resolved. The deadline for reporting to the MOHLTC was December 19th. Consolidated data was sent to hospitals on December 22nd and hospitals have until noon on December 24th to validate their data with the MOHLTC.
- 5) all hospitals are encouraged to post a patient safety section on their website. I am attaching the link to the ministry web site as an example: www.ontario.ca/patientsafety

In the New Year more information will follow regarding the April 30, 2009 indicators, including more details on reporting for hand hygiene compliance rates.

Thank you

Again I want to thank all hospital CEOs and Board Chairs for supporting the government's patient safety agenda, particularly the December 30th public reporting of CDAD, Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE-bacteraemia) and Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus *aureus* (MRSA-bacteraemia) case counts and rates.

The response from the public has been extremely positive and I believe we have been very successful in heightening awareness of the patient safety agenda.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at michael.baker@uhn.on.ca if you have any questions, wish to discuss these issues further or have suggestions for the future of the Patient Safety Initiative.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Michael Baker M.D.
Executive Lead – Patient Safety

cc: Hon. David Caplan, MPP
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Ron Sapsford
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care