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Practices to Reduce Prevalence of CAUTIs

New expert guidance highlights strategies for implementing and prioritizing efforts to prevent catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) in hospitals. The practice recommendations, published in the May issue of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, are the first in a series to be published over several months sharing evidence-based strategies to help healthcare professionals effectively control and prevent the spread of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

[A Compendium of Strategies to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections in Acute Care Hospitals: 2014 Updates](#) is a collaborative effort led by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Hospital Association, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology and The Joint Commission. The 2014 release updates the initial 2008 Compendium publication.

The strategies urge healthcare professionals to use a catheter only if there is clear clinical indication to do so and, if used, to discontinue as soon as possible. The updated guidelines also provide basic practices for acute care hospitals on the appropriate use of catheters including:

- **Insertion and Management:** To avoid complications due to misuse of catheters, the authors highlight protocols that address proper insertion and maintenance techniques to prevent CAUTIs.
- **Healthcare Personnel Education:** To reduce overuse, the guidance emphasizes the importance of education among healthcare professionals to highlight alternatives to catheters, as well as stressing the need to question in each patient's individual care plan if the device is actually necessary.
- **Surveillance:** To record progress in CAUTI prevention, each hospital is advised to create a program that can spotlight effective strategies and areas for improvement.

All guidelines were reviewed by an expert panel and numerous medical societies. A new addition to the updated guidelines includes examples of implementation strategies and provides references that hospitals can access for more detailed information.

New Dementia Care Models to Improve Care for Older Adults with Alzheimer's Disease

The number of older adults with dementia in the United States is forecast to more than double over the next 40 years. Caring for these individuals will have a significant impact on caregivers as well as the health care system and its workforce.

A [paper](#) published in the April issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Health Affairs*, reviews two new dementia care models that seek to decrease stress for caregivers, reduce healthcare costs and improve quality of care for older adults.

Among the most significant features of both of these care models are caregivers' close involvement with the medical team and an underlying understanding that decisions should be based on attaining agreed upon goals -- goals that may rule out burdensome treatments for the older adult with dementia.

Features of both care models profiled in the review article - such as a team-based approach to care; a focus on the caregiver, who may be a family member or a paid healthcare worker; and the long-term management of symptoms -- are not easily applied within the current structure of primary care. Thus, these new models require a redesign of the healthcare system and changes in the workforce. And, significantly, the models run counter to financial incentives in the current health care delivery system.

Each model is being implemented on a broad scale, with the goal of demonstrating improved dementia care quality and outcomes, accompanied by cost savings, in both community-based and institutional care settings.

Save the Date

Please note: While the information below is a list of planned programs for 2014, at this time not all programs can be accessed online for registration.

May 13	CUSP for ESRD in New Jersey
May 20	Reducing Healthcare-Acquired Infections Using a Collaborative Approach
June 3	Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Reduction Strategies
June 9	Statewide Mother Baby Summit
June 10	End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium
Sept. 18	Adverse Drug Events
Sept. 29	Geriatric Emergency Department Guidelines

[Click here to register.](#)

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