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Cut Down on Red Blood Cell Transfusions to Reduce HAIs

Hospitals can slash infections rates up to 20 percent by reducing the amount of red blood cell (RBC) transfusions they perform, according to a [study](#) earlier this month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Rates of pneumonia, mediastinitis, wound infections and sepsis were noticeably lower in groups of patients treated in clinical trials that restricted RBC transfusion. These restrictive strategies can help organizations lower the incidence of healthcare-associated infections, the study concluded.

Other infection control strategies to implement include:

- Consider copper surfaces
- Embrace the latest technology
- Emphasize teamwork and communication
- Educate patients and doctors about hand hygiene

CDC: 20 Years of Vaccination Saves 732,000 Lives, \$1.4 Trillion in Societal Costs

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a [report](#) last Thursday showing that childhood vaccinations have helped avoid 732,000 deaths and \$1.38 trillion in societal costs between 1994 and 2013.

The [Vaccines for Children](#) (VFC) program, founded in 1993, will save nearly \$295 billion in direct healthcare costs, according to the CDC report. The program provides vaccines to children whose parents or caregivers might otherwise be unable to afford them.

The CDC estimates that vaccinations will prevent more than 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths among children born in the last 20 years.

However, the CDC cautioned that the 20th anniversary of the VFC program is coinciding with an increase in measles cases in the United States – illnesses that could be prevented by vaccination.

In 2013, 189 Americans had measles. In 2011, 220 people in the United States were reported as having measles, the highest number of annual cases since 1996.

The CDC reports 34 people, among the 129 cases this year, brought measles into the United States after being infected in other countries. Though not direct imports, most of the remaining cases are known to be linked to importations. Most people who reported having measles in 2014 were not vaccinated or did not know their vaccination status.

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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