



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower

The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza

Albany, New York 12237

March 9, 2007

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

Public Health Law 2819, enacted in 2005, requires surveillance and reporting of select Hospital-Acquired Infections (HAI) by general hospitals in New York State no later than January 1, 2007. As of March 9, 2007, your facility has not enrolled and joined the NYSDOH HAI Reporting group in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). If your institution has not enrolled and joined, please do so immediately.

Training was provided in August, October and November, 2006 throughout NYS. The entire training session has been videotaped and is available by contacting the HAI reporting program at hai@health.state.ny.us. The Department would like to express their appreciation to the Greater New York Hospital Association for making this available free of charge to facilities across the state.

The Department realizes the commitment required to fulfill this reporting mandate. It is clear that infection prevention and control is a facility-wide effort and not the sole responsibility of the infection control professionals. Accurate and complete HAI surveillance and reporting also requires the commitment and dedication of various personnel and resources. Infection control professionals will need the following support for these efforts:

- Clinical staff must accurately document and report infection-related indices.
- Operating room staff must accurately classify, document and record information related to operative procedures.
- Information technology (IT) must support secure data access and entry and facilitate transmittal of accurate operating room log information, information related to patient locations, electronic medical records, laboratory reports, discharge dates, and readmissions.
- Clerical staff may be necessary to assist with data entry.

PHL 2819 requires reporting of Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABS) among other indicators in intensive care units. Many healthcare facilities have initiated efforts to reduce CLABS by instituting the

central line bundle recommended by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. The Department has been monitoring institution of this set of control measures since April 2006. This information will be added to the hospital profile on the Department's public website.

I hope your staff found the trainings valuable for implementation of the HAI reporting legislation in New York State. For further information, please visit: https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/cch/hosp_infection/ or contact the Hospital-Acquired Infection Reporting program at hai@health.state.ny.us or 518-474-3343.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BJW', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brian J. Wing
Interim Executive Deputy Commissioner
New York State Department of Health

cc: Infection Control Departments
NYSDOH/NHSN Training Participants
Greater New York Hospital Association
Healthcare Association of New York State
Regional Offices of Health System Management
Regional Epidemiologists