

Medical News

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Continuous Quality Improvement Study to Look at Antibiotic Resistance in Hospitals

The Juran Institute in collaboration with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement is sponsoring an international total quality management/continuous quality improvement (TQM/CQI) study on the crisis of antibiotic resistance in hospitals. Using TQM tools and techniques, the study is designed to uncover strategies to reduce the selective pressure of excessive and inappropriate antibiotic use and to prevent and reduce nosocomial transmission of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms. The Juran Institute is seeking multidisciplinary, hospital-based teams that will use problem solving and quality improvement techniques. A pre-conference symposium is scheduled for January 23, 1995, in Boston, and a summary conference led by Drs. Donald Goldmann and Donald Betwick is scheduled for October 19-20, 1995, in Atlanta. For information on participation, contact Sally Archer of the Juran Institute at (800) 3387726 (outside the U.S. and Canada, call [203] 834-1700) or FAX (203) 8349891.

FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee Evaluates Glove Use in Blood Donation Centers

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s Blood Products Advisory Committee met on October 21, 1994, to discuss current practice of continued use of a single pair of gloves when going from donor to donor during blood-drawing procedures in blood donation centers. Although permitted by OSHA, concern was raised that this practice of wearing the same pair of gloves from patient to patient may increase the infection risk to the donors from cross contamination. Representatives from the bloodbanking industry explained that although gloves are not required under the OSHA Standard for blood donation centers because patients are considered at low risk for having a bloodstream infection, gloves commonly are worn to ease public fears. Prior to a decision being made on changes in the glove use policy in the blood donation setting, the committee asked the FDA for an interpretation of the definition of single use as it applies to gloves, that is, whether single use applies to the time worn or between patient uses.

National Surveillance Network Initiated to Track Antibiotic-Resistant Organisms

Researchers at the University of Iowa recently launched a program to track the spread of antibiotic-resistant organisms. The program, called the Surveillance and Control of Pathogens of Epidemiologic Importance (SCOPE), is a cooperative effort between University of Iowa and Lederle Laboratories. The network will track resistant organisms using data collected from 48 sentinel hospitals, identifying new strains of bacteria and projecting their spread nationwide. University of Iowa will serve as the coordinating center of the network, validating surveillance and methods and maintaining an organism bank for molecular typing and susceptibility testing of new antimicrobial agents. Plans also call for SCOPE to track infection rates, including projected national and regional trends and analysis of antimicrobial usage. The only comparable existing surveillance network in the nation is the CDC's National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance (NNIS) system, which includes data from over 160 participating hospitals. If the SCOPE program unfolds as planned, it will be the largest non-government-affiliated hospital infection surveillance program and the first such partnership involving industry, academia, and healthcare institutions.

Shortage of Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine Resolved

The shortage of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) in the United States in early 1994 has been resolved. On September 28, 1994, the Food and Drug Administration announced the release of IPV lots manufactured by Pasteur Merieux Serums and Vaccines, S.A. (Lyon, France). In addition, IPV (human diploid cell) lots manufactured by Connaught Laboratories, Limited (Willowdale, Ontario, Canada) were released on October 5, 1994. The release of vaccines from both manufacturers, distributed by Connaught Laboratories Inc (Swiftwater, PA) should quickly restore normal supplies.

FROM: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Update: availability of inactivated poliovirus vaccine—United States. *MMWR* 1994;43:762-763.