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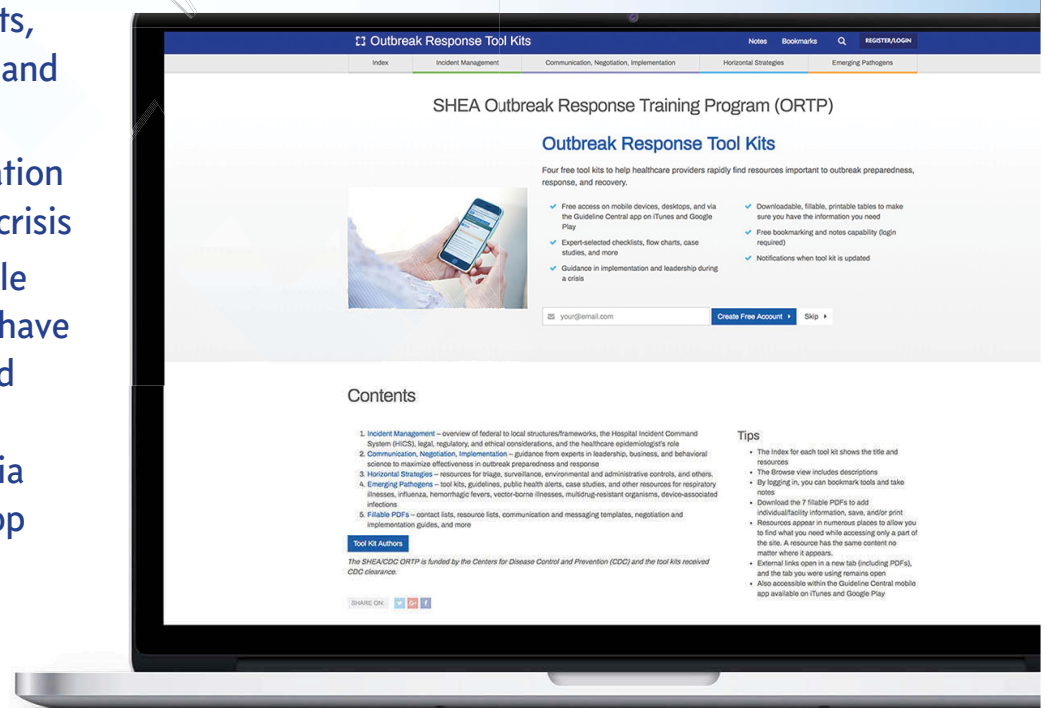


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CONTENTS

SHEA White Paper

- 1149** SHEA neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) white paper series: Practical approaches to *Clostridioides difficile* prevention
Thomas J. Sandora, Kristina K. Bryant, Joseph B. Cantey, Alexis M. Elward, Deborah S. Yokoe and Allison H. Bartlett

Original Articles

- 1154** A noninferiority cluster-randomized controlled trial on antibiotic postprescription review and authorization by trained general pharmacists and infectious disease clinical fellows
Pinyo Rattanaumpawan, Prasit Upanan and Visanu Thamlikitkul
- 1163** A pilot study using telehealth to implement antimicrobial stewardship at two rural Veterans Affairs medical centers
Lauren D. Stevenson, Richard E. Banks, Krystel C. Stryczek, Christopher J. Crnich, Emma M. Ide, Brigid M. Wilson, Roberto A. Viau, Sherry L. Ball and Robin L.P. Jump
- 1170** Nosocomial transmission of hepatitis C virus in a liver transplant center in Hong Kong: implication of reusable blood collection tube holder as the vehicle for transmission
Vincent C.C. Cheng, Shuk-Ching Wong, Sally C.Y. Wong, Siddharth Sridhar, Cyril C.Y. Yip, Jonathan H.K. Chen, James Fung, Kelvin H.Y. Chiu, Pak-Leung Ho, Sirong Chen, Ben W.C. Cheng, Chi-Lai Ho, Chung-Mau Lo and Kwok-Yung Yuen
- 1178** Practical methods for effective vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) surveillance: experience in a liver transplant surgical intensive care unit
Rebecca Y. Linfield, Shelley Campeau, Patil Injean, Aric Gregson, Fady Kaldas, Zachary Rubin, Tae Kim, Danielle Kunz, Alfred Chan, Delphine J. Lee, Romney M. Humphries and James A. McKinnell
- 1183** The cost of managing complex surgical site infections following primary hip and knee arthroplasty: A population-based cohort study in Alberta, Canada
Elissa D. Rennert-May, John Conly, Stephanie Smith, Shannon Puloski, Elizabeth Henderson, Flora Au and Braden Manns
- 1189** The projected burden of complex surgical site infections following hip and knee arthroplasties in adults in the United States, 2020 through 2030
Hannah M. Wolford, Kelly M. Hatfield, Prabasaj Paul, Sarah H. Yi and Rachel B. Slayton
- 1196** Improving nested case-control studies to conduct a full competing-risks analysis for nosocomial infections
Derek Hazard, Martin Schumacher, Mercedes Palomar-Martinez, Francisco Alvarez-Lerma, Pedro Olaechea-Astigarraga and Martin Wolkewitz

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- 1202** A ten-year review of healthcare-associated bloodstream infections from forty hospitals in Québec, Canada
Iman Fakh, Élise Fortin, Marc-André Smith, Alex Carignan, Claude Tremblay, Jasmin Villeneuve, Danielle Moisan, Charles Frenette, Caroline Quach and for SPIN-BACTOT
- 1210** Surveillance for central-line-associated bloodstream infections: Accuracy of different sampling strategies
Elani Kourkouni, Georgia Kourlaba, Evangelia Chorianopoulou, Grammatiki-Christina Tsopela, Ioannis Kopsidas, Irene Spyridaki, Sotirios Tsiodras, Emmanuel Roilides, Susan Coffin and Theoklis E. Zaoutis for the PHIG investigators
- 1216** From insertion to removal: A multicenter survival analysis of an admitted cohort with peripheral intravenous catheters inserted in the emergency department
Peter J. Carr, James C.R. Rippey, Marie L. Cooke, Niall S. Higgins, Michelle Trevenen, Aileen Foale and Claire M. Rickard
- 1222** Preventing ventilator-associated pneumonia—a mixed-method study to find behavioral leverage for better protocol adherence
Aline Wolfensberger, Marie-Theres Meier, Lauren Clack, Peter W. Schreiber and Hugo Sax

Reviews

- 1230** Emerging outbreaks associated with conflict and failing healthcare systems in the Middle East
Issam I. Raad, Anne-Marie Chaftari, Rita Wilson, Edward A. Graviss and Ray Hachem
- 1237** Antimicrobial stewardship for acute-care hospitals: An Asian perspective
Anucha Apisarnthanarak, Andrea Lay-Hoon Kwa, Cheng-Hsun Chiu, Suresh Kumar, Le Thi Anh Thu, Ban Hock Tan, Zhiyong Zong, Yin Ching Chuang, Anis Karuniawati, Maria Fe Tayzon, Thomas Man-Kit So and Lance R. Peterson

Concise Communications

- 1246** Costs versus earnings in colon surgery and coronary artery bypass grafting under a prospective payment system: Sufficient financial incentives to reduce surgical site infections?
Fabrice Juchler, Jan A. Roth, Alexander Schweiger, Marc Dangel, Massimo Gugliotta, Manuel Battagay, Friedrich S. Eckstein, Christoph Kettelhack, Christian Abshagen, Balthasar L. Hug, John M. Boyce and Andreas F. Widmer
- 1250** Antimicrobial activity of a continuous visible light disinfection system
William A. Rutala, Hajime Kanamori, Maria F. Gergen, Emily E. Sickbert-Bennett, Daniel J. Sexton, Deverick J. Anderson, Jeffrey Laux, David J. Weber and the CDC Prevention Epicenters Program
- 1254** A novel sink drain cover prevents dispersal of microorganisms from contaminated sink drains
Scott H. Livingston, Jennifer L. Cadnum, Scott Gestrich, Annette L. Jencson and Curtis J. Donskey
- 1257** Comparison of nylon-flocked swab and cellulose sponge methods for carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* and gram-negative organism recovery from high-touch surfaces in patient rooms
Clare Rock, Michael Anderson, Shawna Lewis, Verna Scheeler, Elaine Nowakowski, Yea-Jen Hsu, Aaron M. Milstone, Karen C. Carroll, Lisa L. Maragakis and Patricia J. Simner for the CDC Prevention Epicenters Program

- 1262** The epidemiological impact and significance of carbapenem resistance in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bloodstream infections: a matched case–case-control analysis
Tzach Aviv, Tsillia Lazarovitch, David Katz, Ronit Zaidenstein, Mor Dadon, Chen Daniel, Ruthy Tal-Jasper, Keith S. Kaye and Dror Marchaim

Research Brief

- 1266** Nosocomial outbreak of *vanD*-carrying vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium*
Philip W. Lam, Robert A. Kozak, Alireza Eshaghi, Melisa Avanness, Natasha Salt, Samir N. Patel, Andrew E. Simor and Jerome A. Leis

Letters to the Editor

- 1269** Hospital epidemiologists and the art of salesmanship
Daniel J. Sexton
- 1270** Strict sequestration versus lenient isolation precautions during hematopoietic stem cell transplant: results of a quality initiative
Joseph K. Franz, Alexander R. Coltoff and Amir S. Steinberg
- 1272** Impact of elimination of contact precautions on noninfectious adverse events among MRSA and VRE patients
Sumanth Gandra, Constance M. Barysaukas, Deborah A. Mack, Bruce Barton, Robert Finberg and Richard T. Ellison
- 1273** Collaboration for containment: Detection of OXA-23–like carbapenamase-producing *Acinetobacter baumannii* in Colorado
Heather L. Young, Caroline Croyle, Sarah J. Janelle, Bryan C. Knepper, Jennifer Kurtz, Amber Miller, Sara M. Reese, Kyle Schutz and Wendy M. Bamberg
- 1274** Post-discharge impact of healthcare-associated infections in a developing country: A cohort study
Emilia Carolina Oliveira de Souza, Sebastião Pires Ferreira Filho, Kasy Meira Gervatauskas and Carlos Magno Castelo Branco Fortaleza

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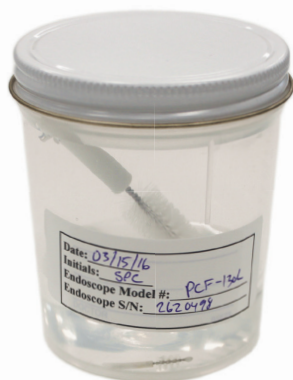


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About the cover:



Since 2015, the cover format of each volume of *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* has been designed to honor one of the many professionals throughout history who not only recognized how disease might be spread but also how to apply those principles to reduce healthcare-associated infections.

John Snow (1813–1858) was 1 of 9 children born to a working-class family in York, England. At the age of 14, he was apprenticed as a surgeon-apothecary with a family friend in Newcastle. He was sent to tend the afflicted in a nearby mining town during a cholera outbreak in 1832. He pursued his medical degree at the University of London, with the sponsorship of a wealthy uncle, and he initially set up a general practice in Soho. He gained fame as a practitioner of the new discipline of anesthesia and tended to Queen Victoria during the births of her children.

On August 24, 1854, a baby died of cholera on Broad Street near Soho. Shortly thereafter, 700 deaths from cholera occurred within a radius of 250 yards, and Snow happened to live nearby. As an anesthetist, he recognized how gases dissipated, and he rejected the prevailing dogma that cholera was spread through the inhalation of atmospheric vapors from decaying material because it would not explain how patients were affected miles away from the source. Snow hypothesized that water, contaminated with some cholera agent in feces, was the more likely explanation.

Using epidemiological principles, he identified who was affected using death certificates and where the illness was acquired (e.g., where case patients lived), then he determined what water supply they had used. He discovered that most households with a cholera case obtained water from the Broad Street pump. Snow ordered that the pump handle be removed. A local curate, Henry Whitehead, initially sought to disprove Snow's suspicions through further surveillance. Instead, Whitehead found that 8-fold more case patients had drunk from the pump than had not. Furthermore, he revealed that deaths occurred more often among residents who resided closest to the pump than in houses located farther away or that used a different water source. Ultimately, a leak between the Broad Street pump and a neighboring cesspool was discovered.

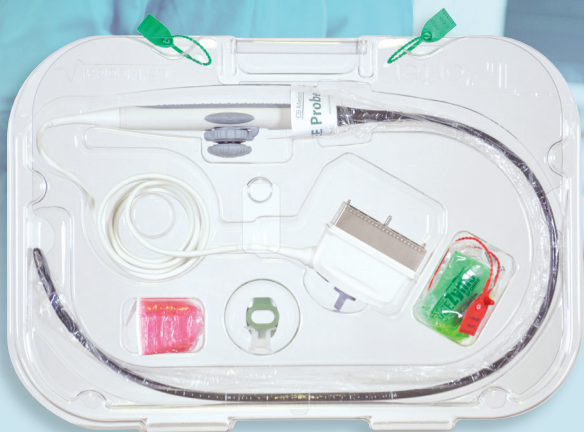
John Snow continued to carefully study the relationship between water contamination and cholera. Unfortunately, his work in epidemiology was ignored or pilloried in editorials in major journals. Snow would not live long enough to be recognized as a founder of modern epidemiology; he died of "apoplexy" or stroke at the age of 45 years. The John Snow Inn and a replica of the Broad Street pump can still be found in what is now called Broadwick Street in Soho, central London.

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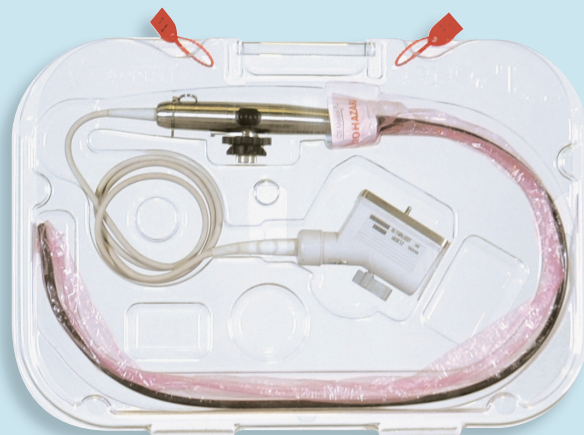
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