

# Regional Healthcare-Associated Infections Prevention Collaborative

Lucy E. Wilson, M.D., Sc.M.

Chief, Center for Surveillance, Infection Prevention and Outbreak Response  
Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response  
Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Region III

# Introduction

- State public health departments recognize emerging HAI threat: MDRO (MDR GNR, CDI)
- Heightened commitment to state HAI efforts
  - Federal support: financial, logistic
  - Healthcare stakeholders: cooperation
- Significant cross-jurisdictional patient flow
  - both in acute care and long term care
- State variability
  - HAI surveillance activities
  - Legislative mandates for surveillance

# Process

- Region III HAI Prevention Office contacted jurisdictions' state public health to identify HAI leaders for strategic planning.
  - (MD, PA, DE, VA, WV, DC)
- Group decision: foster regional collaboration
- Focus:
  - Identify common gaps in State HAI Plans
  - Address, communication, prevention and capacity among Region III jurisdictions.

# Project Goals

- Address common gaps in HAI prevention
- Share relevant surveillance information
- Streamline HAI prevention efforts
- Develop infrastructure and working relationships
- Form partnerships across public health and healthcare continuum
- Provide a forum for communicating best HAI prevention practices in both inpatient & outpatient settings



# Project Description

- Convene multidisciplinary HAI Steering Group of public health and medical partners.
- Identify HAI representatives and partners.
- Identify vendor for coordinating effort.
- Hold regular strategic planning teleconferences.
- Convene two in-person regional meetings involving select HAI stakeholders.
- Create Regional Action Plan for HAI prevention.



# State HAI Plans: Common Goals Identified Across Region III State Plans

- Ensure engagement of LHD in HAI activities
- Develop methods of communication
  - Share best practices among public health and healthcare entities
- Work with state advisory committees
  - Monitor implementation and effectiveness of HAI prevention initiatives



# Coordination/Collaboration

- State HAI Coordinators - engage acute hospitals, LTCF, ASC, local APIC and other professional organizations, LHD
- Public and Private partners - National Nursing Centers Consortium and State Hospital Associations
- Academic Institutions
- Federal partners - including the Office of Healthcare Quality (funder), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CDC, HRSA, AHRQ and others
- RHA components – Office of Women’s Health, Minority Health, HIV/AIDS and the Medical Reserve Corps



# Possible Regional Collaborations and Future Projects

- Multi-state survey of HAI surveillance activity
- Creation of regional guidelines for HAI prevention
- Development of a regional notification system regarding MDRO among those discharged and transferred
  - Purpose: alert institutions of existing MDRO among patients crossing jurisdictions and/or facilities



# Project Outcomes Expected

- Improve focus on HAI prevention via: capacity building, education, networking, development of future working relationships
- Build long term collaborative relationship between Region III
  - Potential to expand to other Regions
- Create Regional Action Plan for HAI prevention
- Provide collaborative model for other HHS RHA

