

WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands

SL: CYH Newsletter

3 July 2014

Dear Colleagues,

As most of you know, our programme “*Clean Care is Safer Care*” has expanded its mandate to a number of new infection prevention and control (IPC) topics over the last couple of years, while maintaining hand hygiene promotion at the heart of our work. We have started to work on the prevention of surgical site infections and catheter-related bloodstream infections (CRBSI), injection safety, as well as antimicrobial resistance, with underlying main focus on IPC in developing countries. You will receive a full update on these new activities through our refreshed web pages in the next months. In this edition, in addition to some other announcements, we would like to provide you with an overview of an important European project aimed at reducing CRBSI, in which WHO has participated, entitled PROHIBIT for the “Prevention of Hospital Infections by Intervention & Training”.

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1. PROHIBIT: a comprehensive study on IPC and CRBSI prevention in Europe

Bloodstream infections (BSI) are the fourth most frequent type of health care-associated infection (HAI) in Europe, accounting for 10.7% of HAI and about 313 000 episodes every year. 39.5% of BSI are catheter-related and a number of those identified as “of unknown origin” (31.7%) are often probably associated with the catheter. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between 12 and 25% of patients who acquire CRBSI die. Many others have extended hospital stays, and increased overall treatment costs. At least 35% of BSI can be prevented by general IPC measures and recent studies from [John Hopkins University](#) have shown that central line-associated BSI rates can be dramatically reduced using approaches focused on patient safety and best practices in catheter insertion and maintenance.

The Prevention of Hospital Infections by Intervention & Training (PROHIBIT) is a project funded by the European Commission and based on a consortium of European institutions coordinated by the Infection Control Programme and WHO Collaborating Centre on Patient Safety at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. WHO HQ participated in designing the project and is leading its dissemination. PROHIBIT was rolled out from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2014. Its main objectives have been to understand the variations of HAI prevention in Europe and to test the success of a strategy to prevent CRBSI.

[New web pages](#) on PROHIBIT have been launched today on the WHO web site! Check these out and learn about PROHIBIT's multiple work packages!

PROHIBIT is an extremely comprehensive study which combines the strengths of qualitative research, survey methods, and observational and experimental intervention studies.

PROHIBIT provides insightful information and breakthrough results on:

- [infection control guidelines and programmes in European countries](#);
- [infection control activities \(surveillance and/or prevention\) established by European hospitals](#);
- [the effectiveness of a programme to prevent CRBSI in a set of hospitals](#).

Within these results, unique and very interesting data about hand hygiene promotion, monitoring and practices in European countries and health-care settings are included. In addition, through the results of a cluster-randomized, stepped wedge trial, PROHIBIT will help scientists and health-care professionals understand the relative effectiveness of either hand hygiene programmes only, or CRBSI IPC bundles, or a combination of the two, for the prevention of CRBSI. It will also provide in-depth qualitative evaluation of the predictors for a successful or unsuccessful adoption of infection control recommendations.

Some important publications have already been generated by PROHIBIT and many more are being prepared. Continue to check for updates on publications on the [web pages](#) in the coming months!

2. Update on the WHO 5 May 2014 global surveys

The WHO 5 May 2014 [global surveys](#) were closed on 15 June 2014.

420 health-care settings participated in the WHO "Laboratory-based Survey on MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT ORGANISMS (MDROs) in Health Care", while data on 10 438 operated patients were submitted for the "Survey on the use of SURGICAL ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS". Data is available nationwide for some countries!

WHO is very grateful to all those who collected and submitted their data!

These surveys will provide invaluable information to complement the recently issued comprehensive WHO "[Antimicrobial resistance: Global report on surveillance 2014](#)" and will inform and drive future actions to combat antimicrobial resistance.

The data cleaning and analysis of the two surveys are being done as we speak and the results will be published soon.

3. Events, training and information

World Sepsis Day – WHO urges all of you to participate in [World Sepsis Day](#) on 13 September 2014! Over 200 national organizations from more than 40 countries across all continents have committed to celebrating World Sepsis Day! WHO fully supports the activities of the Global Sepsis Alliance to raise awareness of the burden

of sepsis and to promote best approaches for the prevention, monitoring and management of sepsis.

2nd International Course on Implementation in Infection Control – This is a very innovative course organized by the Infection Control Programme and WHO Collaborating Centre on Patient Safety at the University of Geneva. Renowned international experts in implementation science are part of the faculty. The work of WHO on hand hygiene promotion will be presented by Professor Benedetta Allegranzi. [Register](#) as soon as possible for this course, which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22-23 September 2014.

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course - Infection Management in the Elderly: Room for Improvement – This course is a unique opportunity to get top experts' advice and participate in interactive discussions about the challenges to prevent, diagnose and manage infections in the elderly. Among many other interesting themes, Professor Benedetta Allegranzi and Dr Maria Luisa Moro will discuss the problems of multidrug resistance and IPC in long-term care facilities and nursing homes. [Register](#) as soon as possible for this course, which will be held in Annecy, France, on 2-3 October 2014!

ICAN 2014 Conference – Register for and send your abstract to the [5th Infection Control African Network Conference](#) to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 3 to 5 November 2014! The WHO Clean Care is Safer Care team will make several presentations on surgical site infections, injection safety and hand hygiene, including a keynote from Professor Didier Pittet.

Upcoming Webber Teleclasses:

Get information on the schedule of Webber [teleclasses](#) during the summer!

The **2014 Free WHO Teleclass Series on Infection Control** will start again on 3 September at 2.30 pm (CET) with a presentation by Professor Allegranzi on the “New WHO global campaign to eliminate unsafe therapeutic injections”. [Register for it here.](#)

Best wishes for all your activities and have wonderful summer vacations, if you have the opportunity!

WHO Clean Care is Safer Care Team

[Previous SL:CYHs newsletters](#) - share with others & track your progress.

WHO Clean Care is Safer Care
<http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/>

Providing WHO information has to be balanced with available resources, both human and financial. WHO do their best to translate their most relevant tools and documents. Regretfully, we are not currently in a position to translate this SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands newsletter into French or Spanish. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and hope that you will remain a valued reader of the newsletter.

La délivrance d'informations provenant de l'OMS dépend des ressources disponibles, à la fois humaines et financières. L'OMS, comprenant l'équipe "Un Soins Propres est un Soins plus sûr", fait de son mieux pour traduire ses outils et documents les plus importants. Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas actuellement en mesure de traduire la lettre d'information mensuelle de SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en français et en espagnol. Nous nous excusons pour ce désagrément et espérons que vous resterez un fidèle lecteur de la lettre d'information à l'avenir.

La información generada por la OMS, depende de los recursos humanos y económicos disponibles. El Programa, y el equipo de la iniciativa "Cuidado Limpio es Cuidado Seguro", realizan sus mejores esfuerzos para traducir el material y documentos de mayor importancia. Desafortunadamente, por el momento no contamos con la facilidad de traducir el boletín mensual SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en francés o español. Le pedimos disculpas por cualquier inconveniente que podamos causarle, y esperamos seguir contando con su valiosa participación como lector de nuestro boletín.