Lessons from the Pioneers
Reporting Healthcare-Associated Infections

A REPORT BY NCSL
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EXTENDING THE CURE PROJECT

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NCSL interviewed stakeholders (e.g., agencies, hospital associations) in 9 of 27 states with reporting laws (AL, CO, DE, IL, MA, NH, OR, PA, WA) and identified challenges and "lessons learned".

Findings: Challenges to Reporting

- Developing meaningful, effective programs
  - Can the infection be reported accurately?
  - Importance of risk adjustment and independent validation

- Using the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
  - Provides standardized, sound scientific reporting methodology
  - But involves a learning curve and requires resources on the part of hospitals
Findings: What's Important to States?

- **Theme 1: Phase in reporting**
  - Beginning with a manageable set of requirements for which standard, scientific methodologies have been developed
  - Central line-related bloodstream infections = low-hanging fruit

- **Theme 2: Importance of flexibility**
  - Multi-stakeholder advisory committee
  - Degree of flexibility varies by state
Findings: What's Important to States?

• **Theme 3: Leverage existing resources**
  - Building on existing quality improvement initiatives
  - Establishing relationships and seeking partnerships early in the planning process

• **Theme 4: Importance of funding**
  - Insufficient funding cited as primary barrier to implementation
  - Funding is needed for administrative support, hospital training, site visits, databases and software, public reports, and data analysis and validation.
Findings: What's Important to States?

Theme 5: Federal guidance and support
- $50 million to states in support of the HHS Action Plan to Prevent HAIs
- Grants have provided infrastructure (e.g. staffing and technical assistance) to help states implement or expand their reporting programs
- States are piloting new approaches to HAI reporting and prevention
Over the Horizon

- New information (e.g. effectiveness of reporting, trends in HAI prevention)
- New tools (e.g. electronic transfer of data into NHSN, new data validation methods)
- Challenge of sustainability once Recovery Act funding expires
Thank You

Report available online
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