



Resources for better healthcare

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CIMRO of Nebraska Supports First World MRSA Day

(Lincoln, Neb.) -- CIMRO of Nebraska, the Nebraska Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, is pleased to announce its support of the first World MRSA Day, October 2, 2009, and recognition of MRSA Awareness Month in October to heighten awareness of how MRSA is transmitted and how to protect ourselves and others.

MRSA stands for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. MRSA is a type of an infection that is resistant to many antibiotics and can be hard to treat. Nationally, MRSA infections kill thousands of people each year and increases healthcare costs by more than \$2.5 billion.

As part of its quality improvement work in Nebraska, CIMRO of Nebraska is working to reduce the number of MRSA infections through its contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

"Nationally, invasive MRSA infections occur in approximately 94,000 persons each year, resulting in about 19,000 deaths each year," said Dr. Audrey Paulman, Principal Clinical Coordinator. "Hospitals across the state continue to work to reduce the incidence and transmission of MRSA in Nebraska."

"We at CMS are deeply concerned about the upward trend in MRSA infections over the past few decades, particularly in those patients who are already acutely ill enough to require inpatient hospitalization," said Paul E. McGann, M.D., Deputy Chief Medical Officer of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. "By working with hospitals across the state, QIOs can serve as go-to resources for slowing—and hopefully one day, stopping—the spread of this debilitating complication of treatment."

QIOs are working as part of CMS' National Patient Safety Initiative, which aims to Patient Safety efforts will reduce patient harm using proven strategies that improve patient safety. "Reducing the rates of hospital-acquired MRSA is one of the key areas where we as a healthcare community can come together and implement common-sense solutions to reduce or eliminate causes of patient harm that result from patients' interactions with the healthcare system, rather than from other causes," said Dr. McGann. "Reducing MRSA rates in healthcare facilities will by definition increase the value of healthcare services as it produces higher quality care for Medicare beneficiaries, and by turn, all patients."

World MRSA Day, a national grassroots event, is coordinated by the MRSA Survivors Network. The event was launched with a press conference on October 1, 2009, at Loyola University in Chicago. The first national event served as a remembrance ceremony for those who have lost their lives or suffered from this preventable disease. For more information on World MRSA Day, please visit www.worldmrsaday.org.

CIMRO of Nebraska is an independent QIO under contract with CMS to work with Nebraska providers and Medicare beneficiaries to improve the quality of care for Nebraska Medicare beneficiaries.

For more information about CIMRO of Nebraska and our efforts to improve healthcare quality in Nebraska, visit www.cimronebraska.org.

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