Project Information

Welcome to the first project newsletter!

The Joint Commission and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are collaborating on an infection prevention and control initiative focusing on ambulatory settings. The goal of this project, called the Adaptation and Dissemination of Outpatient Infection Prevention (ADOPT) Guidance, is to expand the reach, uptake, and adoption of infection prevention and control guidelines and materials to prevent healthcare associated infections in outpatient settings. This project is being conducted through a contract funded by the CDC and is NOT related to accreditation or certification and will not result in new requirements or standards.

Recent Events: JULY 20, 2016 – In person meeting

The Joint Commission hosted an in-person meeting for all project participants. The group engaged in a lively discussion regarding the challenges and barriers to infection prevention in ambulatory settings, discussed project goals, and brainstormed strategies to build awareness and adoption of current CDC guidelines. We look forward to capitalizing on the momentum generated by the meeting.

Project Rationale

A majority of healthcare delivery is transitioning from acute, inpatient settings to outpatient settings. For example, more than three-quarters of all surgeries in the U.S. are performed in outpatient settings and each year more than one million cancer
patients receive outpatient chemotherapy, radiation therapy or both at an outpatient facility (Barie PS. Infection Control Practices in Ambulatory Surgical Centers. JAMA. 2010; 303:2295-2297). This transition, along with ongoing outbreaks and patient notification events related to lapses in infection control, have demonstrated the need for greater understanding and implementation of basic infection prevention and control guidance in these settings. Providing care under conditions that minimize or eliminate risks of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) is critical.

Project Focus Areas
Ambulatory-focused settings & services

The CDC and the project team identified several ambulatory settings/services on which this project will focus. These settings and services were selected based on the degree of risk involved in procedures performed (e.g. invasive procedures), the volume of services provided, and potential gaps in infection prevention and control guidance. The priority settings/services include pain management, gastroenterology, independent cancer clinics, orthopedics, plastic surgery and cosmetic procedures, podiatry clinics, ophthalmology clinics, interventional radiology, urgent care clinics, and free-standing multi-specialty clinics/group practices. Because of the increased attention to infection control and surveillance through accreditation and CMS regulations, this project will specifically NOT focus on hospital-based outpatient clinics, CMS-certified ambulatory surgical centers, or dialysis centers.

Primary Project Activities
Key activities & updates

This project is a three-year project (Sept. 2015-Sept. 2018). It consists of four primary activities: planning & recruitment, evaluation of existing materials, adaptation of new guidance, and dissemination.
Planning & Recruitment
Recruitment for participating organizations is now complete! The project team is pleased to be working with 12 professional associations and 11 ambulatory-focused healthcare systems:

Professional associations:
- American Academy of Pain Medicine
- American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine
- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
- American Gastroenterology Association
- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
- American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
- American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
- American Society for Radiation Oncology

Healthcare systems:
- Advanced Pain Management
- The Center for Orthopedic Research and Education (CORE) Institute ®
- Tri-Health Orthopedic & Sports Institute
- Physicians Endoscopy
- 21st Century Oncology, Inc.
- Center for Vein Restoration
- InStride Foot & Ankle Specialists
- Cincinnati Eye Institute
- Alliance Healthcare Services
- Concentra®, Inc.
- Aurora Health Care, Inc.

Evaluation of Existing Guidance Materials
Evaluation activities are currently underway. The evaluation process is designed to better understand the use, adoption, and dissemination of infection prevention and control materials being used by participating organizations. The evaluation process will compare submitted materials with existing CDC guidance, specifically the CDC Guide to Infection Prevention in Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care and uncover any issues or concepts that may need to be expanded. In addition, it will identify gaps where guidance might be missing. Interviews will also be conducted to further drill down into these concepts. The data collected from the evaluation will be used to inform recommendations as to settings that might benefit from more tailored guidance. CDC and the project team will work together to then select five settings/services on which to focus for the development of new or adapted guidance. An example of a setting specific guidance document that may be developed, Basic Infection Prevention and Control and Prevention Plan for Outpatient Oncology Settings (available here: https://www.jointcommission.org/joint_commission_cdc_collaborating_on_ambulatory_infection_prevention_project/
Adapt or Develop Guidance Materials

Once appropriate settings have been identified, the project team and CDC will work with the setting-relevant professional associations and healthcare systems to finalize two new model infection control plans. The team will work with subject matter experts and consultants to draft the model infection control plans, and drafts will be sent to setting-specific professional associations and healthcare systems, as well as national stakeholders, for comment and feedback. Once draft plans are in place, the project team will engage in site visits to determine the usability of adapted guidance. The team will observe situations and simulations, identify examples of implementation challenges, as well as barriers that practitioners may face. Feedback will be collected from participant liaisons as well as frontline staff and will be used to improve the usability of new adapted guidance.

Disseminate Guidance Materials

Dissemination, defined as the promotion and sharing of information, is an important and ongoing activity on the ADOPT project. Everyone is encouraged to promote the availability of the current CDC guidance documents, including the *CDC Guide to Infection Prevention in Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care*, as well as information about other CDC initiatives such as the One and Only Campaign, which focuses on safer injection practices. Statistics will be tracked on all dissemination efforts. Once new or adapted model infection control plans are in place in year two of the project, a targeted dissemination plan will be launched, including social media promotion, email blasts, publications of articles and blog posts as well as presentations at national and local conferences. The project team will engage setting-specific professional associations and healthcare systems, as well as national infection prevention and control stakeholders, professional organizations, and state and public health departments to assist in dissemination efforts. Please feel free to pass on this newsletter or visit our link to the ADOPT project webpage.

How can my organization get involved? What can I do?

While recruitment for the enrolled participants is complete, anyone can be a part of this important initiative! We encourage your organization to review the CDC guidance materials and to use these documents in your own organizations. Get involved in the CDC One and Only Campaign! Help spread the word about infection prevention and control in ambulatory settings: Post CDC guidance materials on your websites or intranets, send email blasts, or conduct trainings. For more information, please contact Barbara Braun, principal investigator, at bbraun@jointcommission.org, or Beth Ann Longo, project manager, at blongo@jointcommission.org.