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STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

SB 739

This bill regarding mandatory reporting of HAIs has been radically changed. The following highlights are only some of the changes made:

- DHS will appoint a Healthcare Associated Infection Advisory Committee by July 7, 2007
- Every 3 years each acute care facility must incorporate an IC Risk Assessment into their strategic plan. This assessment must be updated annually and revised as needed.
- All facilities must implement the CDC recommendations for prevention of CLR-BSIs and collect data on their infection rates in the ICU.
- All facilities will offer onsite and mandatory influenza vaccinations for employees.
- DHS will provide education to their nurse evaluators to ensure they understand HAIs and their prevention.
- By January 1, 2008 all facilities will report to DHS their implementation of infection prevention and control process measures. This information will be made public. All outcome data will be used by the facility for internal purposes only – ***it will not be publicly reported.***
- Facilities will also have to develop and implement prevention strategies for SSIs and hospital acquired pneumonias.

Although this current bill is not perfect, CACC does currently support it. Please take the time to review this entire bill and contact your state Senators and Assembly members with your opinion.

SB 162

This bill which would create a separate Department of Public Health within California DHS passed the Assembly Committee on Health and has been re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

SB 1785

Introduced by Senator Figueroa, this bill would exempt facilities from registering as tissue banks for the purpose of storing a mother's breast milk for her infant. This bill is sitting in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2335

Introduced by Assembly member Saldana, this bill provides clarification of some language in the Medical Waste Act. This bill is awaiting a third reading.

SB 699

This requires health care providers and laboratories to report cases of HIV infection to the local health officer using patient names. In addition to the reporting changes, the law increases the penalties for persons who willfully, maliciously, or negligently disclose confidential health records. This bill has been passed immediately into law.

(Bill summary continued on next page)

To read the complete bills, log on to the following site and follow the directions in the "Bill Search" section on the right side of the webpage.

www.legislature.ca.gov

AB 2509

This bill would require all general acute care hospitals each year (from October 1st to April 1st) to offer flu and pneumococcal immunizations to inpatients, aged 65 years and older, prior to discharge. Hospitals would only be required to offer:

- if they possess the vaccines
- pursuant to the hospital's standardized procedures
- based upon the latest recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and
- based upon the latest recommendations by appropriate entities for the prevention, detection, and control of influenza outbreaks in California general acute care hospitals.

This bill passed the Senate Committee on Health and has been re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

CMS CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

The APIC Public Policy Team has worked with CMS to revise the interpretive guidelines related to infection control and prevention. Recently, CMS notified APIC that they have accepted a majority of the recommended changes. The document has been significantly changed and will become final once the CMS legal department signs off on it. All of the new language is in red and easily spotted. Once finally approved, this document will provide much needed clarification and guidance to state surveyors. Follow the link below to view the entire document.

https://live-wdc.kp.org/DanaInfo=www.apic.org+Content/NavigationMenu/GovernmentAdvocacy/CMS/Interp_Guidelines_Draft60906.pdf

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.
-Walt Disney

To provide information for inclusion in the newsletter or ask questions, please contact:

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