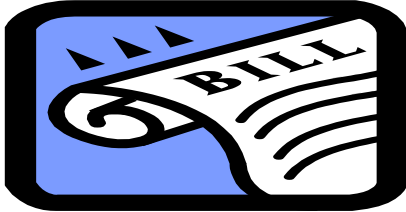


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What's Up at the Capital?

Here is an update on the bills we have been following during this legislative session.

SB 739

Introduced by Senator Speier, this bill has been amended four times since the last newsletter. According to this bill, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) will establish a multidisciplinary advisory panel which will monitor statewide planning and oversight of hospital collection and risk-adjustment of infection data. By January 1, 2007, this office will establish data collection and reporting methods and timelines. The data collected by hospitals and submitted to the office will only be used for tracking infection rates. Prior to January 1, 2008, the advisory panel will choose two surgical site infections for hospitals to track and central line associated blood stream infections in ICUs. After January 1, 2008, the panel can consider adding VAPs and other types of infections.

Definitions and data collection methods standardized by the National Healthcare Safety Network of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be utilized.

In addition to reporting infection rates this bill requires monitoring and reporting process measures like surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis for selected surgical procedures and influenza vaccination coverage rates for healthcare workers.

The advisory panel will also establish methods for collecting, reporting, validating and risk adjusting data submitted. The panel may also make a proposal to increase the staffing ratio to 1/100 beds based on average daily census.

This bill passed the Senate and was sent to the Assembly where it will be heard on 7/5/05 by the Health Committee.

AB 669

Introduced by Assembly Member La Suer, this bill has completely changed and no longer pertains to the practice of Infection Control. It is now titled "Firefighter Training and Standards"

AB 1046

Introduced by Assembly Member Frommer, this bill amends the Health Data and Advisory Council Consolidation Act to require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to be the single state agency designated to collect health facility or clinic data for use by all state agencies. Data will be collected on all hospital admissions, ED visits and Ambulatory Surgery procedures from coder data. This information will be compiled into a "California Hospital Report Card" which will provide consumers with information about the quality of care provided at hospitals. No specific performance measures are stated in the bill. Performance measures will be developed with representatives of California hospitals, health care providers, organizations representing purchasers of health care coverage, consumer organizations, labor organizations and state and national organizations promoting health care quality.

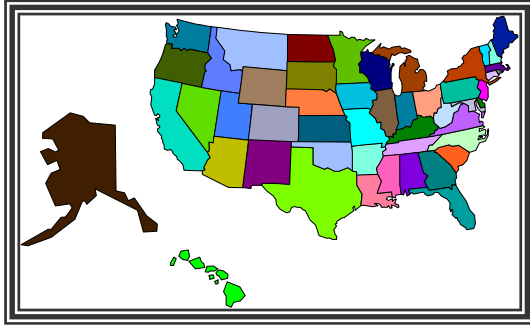
This bill passed the Assembly and has been assigned to the Health Committee. It has not been scheduled for a hearing yet.

To read the complete bills, log on to this site and follow the directions in the "Bill Search" section on the right side of the webpage. www.legislature.ca.gov



To learn who your California State legislative representatives are, visit the following website and enter your zip code in the box specified.

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>



Mandatory Reporting Update

Currently, there are six states that require infection rate reporting:

Nevada Missouri Illinois
Pennsylvania Virginia Florida

Thirty-two states, including California with SB 739, currently have legislation pending regarding mandatory reporting. For more information about activity in specific states, click on this link:

www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/GovernmentAdvocacy/MandatoryReporting/state_legislation/state_legislation.htm

The following documents can provide you with information regarding Mandatory Reporting

“Guidance on Public Reporting of Healthcare-Associated Infections: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee”

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/PublicReportingGuide.pdf

“APIC Position on Mandatory Reporting of Healthcare-Associated Infections”

www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Position_Papers1&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=1954

“Public Disclosure of Healthcare-Associated Infections: The Role for the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology in America”

www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Position_Papers1&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=1955



The Voice of Infection Prevention and Control

The APIC Public Policy Committee will be showcasing “the Voice of Infection Prevention and Control” aka “VIP” at the APIC Annual Conference in Baltimore, June 19-23. Make sure to stop by for a demonstration of this program that makes it easier to contact elected officials, agencies and organizations. You can preview VIP online at <http://capwiz.com/apic/home/>



Alcohol Based Hand Rubs are Legal!

Last Fall, CMS announced they are reversing the prohibition of alcohol based hand rub dispensers in egress corridors. This announcement was formally made in the March 25th, 2005 Federal Register. The new ruling, which went into effect May 24th, 2005, allows certain health care facilities to place alcohol-based hand rub dispensers in egress corridors under specified conditions.



It is common sense to take a method and try it; if it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something.
-- Franklin D. Roosevelt

To provide suggestions for this newsletter or ask questions, please contact:

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