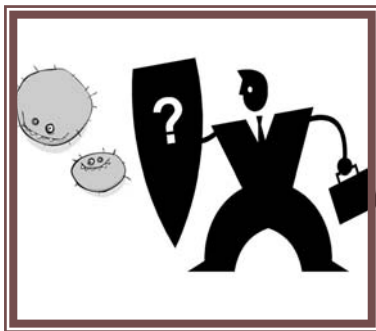


# SHARPPS Newsletter

## **INTRODUCING THE NC DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S SHARPPS PROGRAM!**

Formerly known as the HAI Program, the Surveillance for Healthcare-Associated and Resistant Pathogens Patient Safety (SHARPPS) Program is the new name chosen to better reflect the broader scope of work conducted on a daily basis. Team members include Zack Moore (medical director), Jennifer MacFarquhar (program director), Tammra Morrison (program coordinator), Heather Dubendris (epidemiologist), and Kristin Pridgen (campaign coordinator). This team conducts surveillance, provides guidance, education, and training, and assists with outbreak investigations relevant in all types of healthcare settings.



## **GET SMART CAMPAIGN**

The Get Smart Campaign is a public health initiative designed to bring awareness to the growing rate of antibiotic resistant bacteria, educate consumers on the purpose and correct use of antibiotics, and encourage providers to be diligent in prescribing antibiotics. The campaign aims to promote antibiotic stewardship. NC DPH is a state partner of the campaign.

SHARPPS is actively promoting antibiotic education and stewardship. Antibiotic resistance, when bacteria no longer respond to antibiotics, is a growing public health issue related to the improper use of the drugs. Antibiotic resistance in the United States causes over 23,000 deaths and over 2 million illnesses per year. Recently, Dr. Zack Moore, SHARPPS Medical Director, presented on antibiotic resistance and stewardship at the NC Dermatology Association Annual Meeting and the NC Chapter of American College of Physicians Annual Meeting.

For more information, please visit <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/antibiotics.html>.

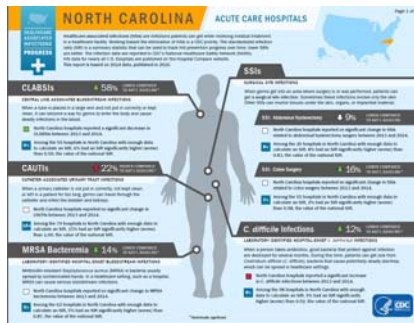


## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- \* SHARPPS, page 1
- \* Get Smart Campaign, page 1
- \* CDC's Annual HAI Report, page 2
- \* One & Only Campaign, page 2
- \* Drug Diversion, page 3
- \* Upcoming Events, page 3
- \* Contact Us, page 3

## CDC ANNUAL STATE HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS PROGRESS REPORT

Each year, the CDC produces a progress report which details progress in reducing healthcare associated infections (HAI) within acute care hospitals. Released on March 3, this report compares NC acute care hospitals to those on a national level. Data included in this report are from 2014 and from acute care hospitals only. The Progress Report can be located here: <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/surveillance/progress-report/index.html>.



Highlights from the NC Progress Report:

- Almost all types of reported healthcare associated infections in NC were lower or demonstrated no significant difference when compared to the national baseline in 2014.
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) were the only type of healthcare associated infection in NC that demonstrated a higher number of infections than the national baseline in 2014.

## ONE & ONLY CAMPAIGN

The One & Only Campaign is a public health campaign led by the CDC and the Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC) aimed at raising awareness among patients and healthcare providers about safe injection practices. NC DPH is a state partner of the campaign.

The Safe Injection Connection Training was held on March 21 in Raleigh. Twenty-five health care professionals across the state attended the training to learn about the dangers of unsafe injection practices and the importance of injection safety. The participants received continuing education credit and are now certified to present on safe injection practices throughout the state.

Patient Safety Awareness Week was observed on March 13-19, 2016. To promote patient safety, the NC One & Only Campaign participated in the Provider Pledge, where healthcare providers pledged to use a new needle and new syringe for each patient. Various facilities across the state submitted pictures of their staff displaying their signed pledges of safe injection practices.

Sign the #1andonlypledge to use a new needle and syringe for each patient at <http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/partner/north-carolina>.



Nurses from Brynn Marr Hospital  
Jacksonville, NC



## DRUG DIVERSION

Drug diversion is the act of illegally obtaining prescription medications by a healthcare worker for his or her own use. This can result in several types of patient harm, including:

- Substandard care delivered by an impaired healthcare provider
- Denial of essential pain medication or therapy, or
- Risk of infection (e.g., with hepatitis C virus or bacterial pathogens) if a provider tampers with injectable drugs.

SHARPPS has been working with medical, law enforcement, and other partners to increase awareness about drug diversion and help health care facilities

prevent, detect, and respond to drug diversion. Additionally, we are working to assure that a complete assessment of infection risk occurs (in coordination with local health department communicable disease staff) whenever diversion of injectable medications is identified.

In March, Tammra Morrison, SHARPPS Nurse Consultant, presented at the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) Carolina Chapter Training on public health's role when drug diversion by a healthcare worker occurs.

More information and resources are available at [www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/drugdiversion](http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/drugdiversion).



### *Coming Soon:*

*\*2015 Annual NC HAI Report\**

*\*Update on CRE Sentinel Site Surveillance\**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Communicable Disease Conference: April 25-27, 2016, Asheville, NC
- Safe Injection Practices Presentation at the Eastern District NCPHA Conference: May 12, 2016, Nags Head, NC
- One & Only and Get Smart Campaigns at the State Employees 2016 Wellness & Safety Expo: May 11, 2016, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC
- Antibiotic Resistance Presentation at the NC Academy of Physician Assistants Summer Conference: August 25, 2016, Myrtle Beach, SC
- Safe Injection Connection Training Program: October 17, 2016, NC Division of Public Health (Cardinal Room), Raleigh, NC

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