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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR **HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA**

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Infection Control Education Required for Healthcare Workers in New York State

In response to the federal requirement that all states submit to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention a statement that they had incorporated the CDC guidelines for the prevention of transmission of HIV and HBV during invasive procedures or had instituted an alternative system that would meet the CDC's definition of equivalency, the New York State Legislature has passed a bill requiring periodic infection control education for all healthcare workers as a condition for relicensure. Such a program is a massive undertaking that will require recurrent education of the 450,000 licensed healthcare workers in the state of New York.

To initiate this program, the State Education and Health

Departments have brought together a core group of infection control specialists to develop a core curriculum. Four members of SHEA, Drs. Michael Tapper, Beth Rauscher, William Greene, and John Sellick, are members of the core curriculum group. The core group will develop a basic curriculum structure that can be expanded by the various professional groups or healthcare institutions to meet their specific needs.

The educational programs will have to be in place over the next several months, because the law requires the initial cycle of education to be completed by 1994. The State Health and Education Departments intend to monitor closely the quality of these courses and their content.

A few other states also have established requirements for physician and other healthcare worker infection control education, but many changes in professional licensing and education have begun in New York and then spread to other states. If such mandatory educational programs become a trend in the United States, we believe that members of the Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America (SHEA) should play a major role as consultants to state agencies charged with the development and institution of these programs. Members of SHEA should also seek to play an active role in the development of enabling legislation for such programs.

Conference to Be Held on Prevention of Transmission of Bloodborne Pathogens in Surgery and Obstetrics

The conference will be sponsored by The American College of Surgeons and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The conference will take place at the Hilton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 13-15, 1994.

The purpose of this

conference is to provide information regarding the risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens, including HIV, and hepatitis B and C viruses during surgical and obstetrical procedures and describe methods to reduce that risk. The conference

will bring together surgeons, obstetricians, anesthesiologists, surgical and obstetrical nurses and technicians, hospital epidemiologists, and infection control practitioners. The program will include state of the art lectures by experts in the field as well as

presentations of abstracts of original research.

ABSTRACT AND MEETING INFORMATION

Abstracts for the Conference on Prevention of Transmission of Bloodborne Pathogens in Surgery and Obstetrics should be typed on plain white paper, single spaced, no longer than 250 words, with two-inch top and bottom margins and 2 1/8-inch side margins. The

abstract should be headed with title, author names with degrees and institutions, city and state, with an asterisk next to the presenting author. This is to be followed by the objectives, methods, results, and conclusions of the research. Abstracts will be printed exactly as received.

Mail abstract and four copies, with presenting author's address and telephone number, to Bloodborne Pathogen Conference, HIV

Infections Branch, Hospital Infections Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mailstop A-07, Atlanta, GA 30333. Deadline for receipt of abstracts is October 31, 1993.

For hotel information and registration forms, contact Mr. John P. Lynch, Organization Department, American College of Surgeons, 55 East Erie Street, Chicago, IL 60011-2797. Telephone (312) 664-4050.

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations for the Immunization of Healthcare Workers

Current recommendations on the immunoprophylaxis of healthcare workers can be found scattered in existing published ACIP Statements. These recommendations will be consolidated and updated in an upcoming ACIP publication. In this new publication, the vaccine-preventable diseases will be arranged in categories ranging from diseases against which all health workers should be

immunized, such as hepatitis B and influenza, to those that would require vaccination only in select settings.

The new publication also will address the value of Bacille-Calmette-Guerin (BCG) in the prevention of tuberculosis and the problem of immunizing immunocompromised healthcare workers. The designation "healthcare worker" in this document will

apply broadly to include workers in private doctors' offices, nursing homes, schools, laboratories, and first response teams.

Raymond A. Strikas, MD, of the Division of Immunization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, anticipates a fall publication date in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*.

Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology

The Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America (SHEA), with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Hospital Association (AHA), will cosponsor another training course for hospital epidemiologists.

The course is scheduled for September 12-14, 1993, in Seattle, Washington, and is being organized and taught by representatives from some of the most influential organizations in this country to deal with infection control.

The course is intended for

infectious diseases fellows and new hospital epidemiologists, and will emphasize hands-on exercises in which participants work in small groups to detect, investigate, and control epidemiologic problems encountered in the hospital setting. These working sessions will be supplemented with lectures

and seminars covering fundamental aspects of hospital epidemiology.

Course information is available from Ian Dockrill, SHEA Meetings Department, 875 Kings Highway, Suite ZOO, Woodbury, NJ 08096 3172. Telephone (609) 845-1720; fax (609) 853-0411.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to C. Glen Mayhall, MD, SHEA, Newsletter Editor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, University of Tennessee, Memphis, 956 Court Ave., Memphis, TN 38163; FAX (901) 528-5854. Copy should be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed five pages.