

Sharing of Symposium on Prevention of Healthcare-associated Infections (HAIs)



A symposium on Prevention of Healthcare-associated Infections (HAIs) in Hospitals and Community Institutions was organized by the Infectious Disease Control Training Centre, Hospital Authority and Infection Control Branch, Centre for Health Protection (CHP) from 17 - 18 January 2019. The objective was to let the hospital colleagues understand local practice and the evidence-based practice recommended by CHP in preventing HAIs in the hospitals and residential care homes for the elderly.

Four overseas experts were invited to share evidence-based strategies for prevention HAIs including:

1. Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CA-UTI);
2. Surgical site infections (SSI);
3. Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP); and
4. Central Line-associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSIs).

During the 2-day symposium, the audiences were updated on the national surveillance definitions and criteria to classify HAIs. For each Types of HAI, a session of "Meet the Experts" was arranged to facilitate the exchange of good practice and expert consultation by healthcare workers and infection control colleagues.

Prof. Trish M. Perl compared different surveillance methods such as human surveillance and computer surveillance. She quoted "lemon juice for scurvy prevention" and "keyboard" to explain that healthcare innovation would be required for patient safety but most innovations diffuse at a disappointingly slow rate. Besides, Dr. William Jarvis briefed the participants on the lifecycle of the urinary catheter, and highlighted the "ABCDE bladder bundle" to prevent

Wish you lots of luck for the year of the Pig!!



CA-UTI. Practical issues such as proper urine collection and urinary catheter securement were also shared.

In addition, Dr. Michael Klompas pointed out the challenge of VAP diagnosis, and elaborated on the changes in the surveillance of VAP involving a new surveillance algorithm to capture a variety of ventilator associated event (VAE) occurring in patients on mechanical ventilation. Furthermore, Prof. Anucha Apisarnthanarak inspired the audience with the good practice for CLABSI prevention through experience sharing of his mother-in-law case.

Local specialists and experts also took this opportunity to share the surveillance modules, and promulgate the multifaceted interventions as recommended by the Scientific Committee on Infection Control of CHP for the four major systems - SSI, CA-UTI, VAP and intravascular catheter associated bloodstream infection.