



HEALTH RESEARCH &
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In Partnership with AHA

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NEWS RELEASE

ICUs from 750 Hospitals Reduce Central Line Bloodstream Infections by 33 Percent

CHICAGO – November 8, 2011 – An interim report released this month by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) shows a 33 percent reduction in central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) among adult intensive care units from more than 750 hospitals that have been participating in the national *On the CUSP: Stop BSI* project for over one year. CLABSI rates dropped from an average of 1.87 infections per 1,000 central line days to an average of 1.25 infections per 1,000 central line days in units that participated in the project. The number of participating units with no central line associated blood stream infections for a continuous three month period rose from 27% to over 69% since the project began.

The findings from this report show updated results from hospitals within the first 32 states that have participated in the project, which is led by the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET), an affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA).

“We’re delighted to see the great progress America’s hospitals are making in reducing these infections and providing safer care for their patients,” said Rich Umbdenstock, AHA president and CEO.

Currently, over 1,750 hospital teams from 45 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are actively participating in the project or have recently completed it. Building on the success of an earlier Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Keystone Center project that dramatically reduced CLABSI rates in Michigan hospitals, AHRQ funded this national effort to accomplish the same goal.

“AHRQ’s investment in sharing a method for reducing these infections is paying off,” said John R. Combes, MD, AHA senior vice-president and senior fellow at HRET. “The innovative improvement method developed by our project partner Johns Hopkins University and the insights and implementation experience provided by the Keystone Center of the Michigan Hospital Association are helping participating hospitals to succeed.”

The *On the CUSP: Stop BSI* initiative will continue through September, 2012. The AHA and state hospital associations have led recruitment efforts. Hospitals will participate in monthly educational and coaching calls and will receive information on an infection prevention training

model initially developed by Peter Pronovost, MD, PhD and others at the Johns Hopkins University Quality and Safety Research Group. Participating hospitals collect and report infection rate data and then receive data reports and implementation guidance from the MHA Keystone Center and the individual hospital's state hospital association.

“This project shows that successful innovations developed by experts, tested in hospitals and then funded by AHRQ can become highly successful national campaigns that reduce infections and prevent patient deaths,” said HRET president Maulik Joshi, DrPH.

This second interim report is a result of AHRQ's efforts to support projects aimed at preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), such as CLABSI, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, surgical site infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Clostridium difficile*. The Department of Health and Human Services' *Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections* is focusing attention on the need to dramatically reduce these infections. For additional information on the *Action Plan*, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/initiatives/hai/actionplan/index.html>.

The report is available at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/onthecusprpt/>.

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Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and education affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET's mission is to transform health care through research and education. HRET's applied research seeks to create new knowledge, tools, and assistance in improving the delivery of health care by providers in the communities they serve. For more information about HRET, visit www.hret.org.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

AHRQ's mission is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. The research sponsored, conducted, and disseminated by AHRQ provides information that helps people make better decisions about health care.