

April 11, 2014

Vincent G. Capece, Jr.
President,
Chief Executive Officer

Richard Melchreit, MD
HAI Program Coordinator
Connecticut Department of Public Health
410 Capital Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134

Dear Dr. Melchreit:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Middlesex Hospital facility specific infection data posted on the CT DPH website.

Middlesex Hospital exists to provide the safest, highest quality health care, and the best experience possible for our community. Our Infection Prevention program is an integral part of this effort and actively supports this quest for quality. We are committed to reducing the risk of infection to the lowest level possible with the technology and knowledge available. Some of our activities and achievements are summarized below:

- The hospital has an ongoing program to reduce central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), initiated ten years ago. Established best practices are implemented, standardized and “hardwired” into practice. As a result, the central line-associated bloodstream infection rate in the Critical Care Unit (CCU) dropped more than 80% between 2002 and 2004. The resulting low rate of infection has been maintained since, and in fact, there have been no CLABSIs in the Middlesex Hospital CCU in more than three years. The same best practices were spread from the CCU to other areas of the hospital resulting in similarly low rates of CLABSI throughout all inpatient units.
- Middlesex is now utilizing a similar model of implementing best practices as we strive to reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) and surgical site infections (SSI). When such an infection does occur each case is reviewed in detail by the caregivers involved to determine if something could have been done differently to prevent the infection. If so, changes are made to help prevent a similar occurrence in the future.
- Clean hands are one of the most effective measures to prevent healthcare acquired infections. Hand hygiene is a declared institutional priority at Middlesex Hospital, and considered an integral component of our culture of safety.

Middlesex Hospital strives to provide outstanding patient care “every moment, every person, every time.” This promise has the strongest possible support from all levels of leadership, and passionate commitment from every healthcare worker. We will continue to work together in a transparent manner to reduce healthcare related infections at every opportunity in the present and future.

Sincerely,



Vincent G. Capece, Jr.
President/CEO

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