

# Highlights from Infection, Health & Disease 2015-16

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**Marie Bashir Institute**  
*"tackling infections, locally and globally"*



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# Contents overview: Healthcare Infection/Infection, Health & Disease

- June 2015-November 2016 topics =30: (highlights)
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  - Surgical site infections; *S. aureus* BSI (1 online), venous access, *C. difficile*, screening 1 each

RESEARCH PAPER

## Evaluating antimicrobial therapy: How reliable are remote assessors?

Menino Osbert Cotta <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Tim Spelman <sup>a</sup>, Caroline Chen <sup>a</sup>,  
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## Background

- Assessment of appropriate antibiotic use vs susceptibility, spectrum, dose, duration, clinical guidelines, “overall appropriateness”
- Needs expert judgment of AM management team at the bedside
- Not always available
- Question:  
How reliable are different types of (non-expert) assessor?

# Evaluating antimicrobial therapy: Methods:

Osbert Cotta *et al*

- 180 varied prescriptions; 34 hospitals; 2013 NAPS survey
- Local assessors:
  - Access to medication chart, clinical notes, lab. results
  - A) AMT expert team: ID specialist + ID pharmacist
  - B) nonexperts: clinical pharmacist or ICP
- “Remote” assessors:
  - Online prescription data only
  - A) 3 AMT expert teams; 3 ID specialists; 3 ID pharmacists
  - B) 3 non ID pharmacists; 3 ICPs (no ID experience)

# Results

- Inter-rater reliability:
  - concordance with guidelines > overall appropriateness
  - none optimal (inter-rater reliability  $\kappa > 0.6$ )
  - moderate ( $\kappa$  0.41-0.6) - local AMT experts (“gold standard”) vs:
    - remote AMT team ( $\kappa$  0.53); for RTI (0.67) >
    - remote ID pharmacist (0.44) > non spec. pharmacist (0.41)
  - fair-slight agreement ( $\kappa$  0.01-0.4)
    - remote ID specialist (0.23) > ICPs (0.21)
- Conclusions:
  - Additional training & tools needed for non specialist assessors



**Did  
you wash  
them**



**Hand washing  
the spread of germs.**

RESEARCH PAPER

**A survey of acute care clinicians' views on factors influencing hand hygiene practice and actions to improve hand hygiene compliance**

**Asmara Jammali-Blasi<sup>\*</sup>, Elizabeth McInnes<sup>1</sup>, Sandy Middleton<sup>1</sup>**

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A hand washing poster with a blue border. It features a purple handprint at the top left, a blue handprint at the bottom left, and the text 'Hand washing stops the spread of germs.' at the bottom. The word 'you' is partially visible in the middle left. The poster is set against a light grey background.

## Background:

- Limited knowledge of local HCWs views on HH
  - Effect of local cultural values & expectation
  - Individual or system responsibility?
- Survey - questions:
  - a) individual & cultural factors that influence HH behaviour?
  - b) strategies to improve it?

Infection, Disease & Health (2016) 21, 16–25

**Hand washing stops  
the spread of germs.**



# Clinician survey on hand hygiene practice

Jammali-Blasi *et al*

- Participants:
  - random sample (300) of 1 100 hospital clinical staff
    - nurses 179; doctors 93; allied health 28
    - 118 (39%) responded
- Methods:
  - 19 question survey:
    - demographics; knowledge of HH;
    - views on: current HH practice; strategies to improve;
    - whether noncompliance should incur penalty

# Results

- Education & knowledge
  - >50% had received recent HH education & listed 5 moments correctly
    - doctors < nurses & allied health
  - >80%: workload or forgetting **no excuse** for noncompliance
  - 23% thought 5 moments difficult to apply (doctors>nurses)
  - ~1/3 would feel uncomfortable reminding others about HH
- Organisational strategies to improve HH:
  - ABHR at bedside; public display of compliance rates
  - feedback of audit data to staff;
  - modelling by senior staff; **noncompliance = healthcare error**

# Results

- Clinician strategies:
  - 70% audit/feedback, reminders (doctors<nurses);
  - **53% support penalties for persistent non compliers**
- HH education: needs to target particular groups
  - (?Doctors miss out)
  - Organisational intervention to ensure reminders; role modelling



RESEARCH PAPER

## A point prevalence study of healthcare associated urinary tract infections in Australian acute and aged care facilities

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RESEARCH PAPER

## The use of clinical coding data for the surveillance of healthcare-associated urinary tract infections in Australia

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## Background

- HAUTI Surveillance:
  - HAUTIs are common
  - surveillance time consuming
- Are online point prevalence surveys feasible?
  - What is prevalence of HAUTI?

Infection, Disease & Health 21:26-31

- Can administrative codes be used?

Infection Disease & Health 21:32-35

# PPS of HAUTIs

Mitchell *et al*

- **Methods:**
  - PPS in 82 acute and 17 longterm care facilities
  - Online survey; data collector training (July/August 2015)
  - Standard definitions
- **Results:**
  - ACF: 1320 patients (med. age 74); 9.3% catheters;
    - 19 (1.5%) HAUTI; 68% receiving antibiotics
  - LTCF: 663 residents (med. age 86); 3.3% catheters;
    - 10 (1.4%) HAUT; 80% receiving antibiotics
- **Conclusions:**
  - periodic on-line HAUTI PPS feasible
  - rates lower than or comparable with previous studies

# Using coding data for HAUTI surveillance

Mitchell & Ferguson

- Methods:
  - Patients in hospital >2 days; 8 hospitals/1 LHD (2010-14)
  - ICD-10 codes UTI/post delivery/neonatal vs
  - Urine culture: Enterobacteriaceae >10<sup>5</sup>/mL (89% pyuria)
- Results: 162,503 admissions;
  - 2821 lab. diagnosed HA UTI; only 29.3% coded as UTI
  - 6958 coded as UTI; no Enterobacteriaceae isolated in 45.8%
    - Codes include community cases and nonEnterobacteriaceae causes
- Conclusion: coding data alone inadequate for surveillance

Research

# Administrative data has poor accuracy for surveillance of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia

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## Background:

- *S. aureus* bacteraemia– important; significant mortality
  - HA SAB – marker of healthcare quality
- SAB diagnosis – objective; straightforward
  - *S. aureus* isolated from blood culture significant
- Current mandatory reporting of SAB in Australia
  - manual review of records
  - can administrative data be used instead?
- ICD-10 codes require MO documentation in notes

# Using coding data for SAB surveillance

Das *et al*

- Question:
  - ?accuracy of ICD-10 (A41.0) code – “*S. aureus* sepsis” vs *S. aureus* isolated from blood culture
- Methods: retrospective, 2002-11, Canberra Hospital & LIS
  - Codes exclude ED patients not admitted
- Results: 567,338 admissions
  - 740 SAB in LIS (439 HA); 408 (55%) coded
  - 565 coded SABs: (408 [72%] blood culture +ve); 157 blood culture –ve
    - 51 *S. aureus* culture +ve other sites; 106 no positive culture
    - Wrong diagnosis; misinterpretation of CoNS; focal *S. aureus* infection

# Using coding data for SAB surveillance

Das *et al*

- Results (cont.)
  - 332 laboratory diagnosed SAB not coded; 11 only in ED
  - 321 - +ve blood culture not documented in notes; other sepsis codes used
    - 227 another staphylococcus code; 37 generalised sepsis code; 46 no infection code
  - Sensitivity of ICD-10 (A41.0) for detecting SAB: 55% (56% ex ED cases)
    - PPV = 72% (81% incl. cases diagnosed elsewhere)
  - New code for HA-SAB, 2010 (few cases) sens. 12%; PPV 32%
- Conclusions:
  - ICD-10 coding inaccurate esp. for HA-SAB.
    - Most missed by prioritising focal *S. aureus* infection >SAB (“sepsis” ambiguous)
  - Accurate surveillance needs laboratory data (*S. aureus* nearly always significant)

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