

HEALTHWEST

PROCEDURE

No. 07-013

Revised by: Environment of Care Committee
Approved by: _____
Effective Date: January 22, 1997
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Subject: Surveillance of Infection

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I. PURPOSE

- A. To establish the types of surveillance used to monitor the rates of infections.
- B. To establish a system to collect and analyze surveillance data for Infection Control.

II. APPLICATION

All HealthWest employees and contracted staff.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Surveillance
Continuous scrutiny of all aspects of occurrence and transmission of infection.
- B. Total Surveillance
Measures all infections that occur in all areas to identify potential problems in a specific area.
- C. Priority-Directed, Targeted Surveillance
Measures the occurrence for specific areas, populations, or procedures.
- D. Problem-Oriented or Outbreak Surveillance
Measures the occurrence of specific infection problems, such as clusters of infections.
- E. Endemic
The usual presence of disease within a given geographic area.
- F. Epidemic
Occurrence of disease at frequency above that which is expected; also called "outbreak."
- G. Pandemic
An epidemic that involves several countries or a whole continent.
- H. Risk
The probability of an event occurring.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. The Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) and the Environment of Care Committee (EOC) shall define the type of surveillance to be used and will take the following into consideration when doing so:
1. Defining nosocomial infections and differentiating them from community-acquired infections.
 2. The rationale for selecting a specific surveillance approach or a combination of approaches.
 3. The individual population affected by the infection.
 4. The data collection employed.
 5. Quality control procedures to assure accuracy and completeness.
 6. Assignment of responsibility for collection, evaluation, and follow-up.
 7. Method for reporting and follow-up.
 8. As required, reporting of infections to Public Health authorities.
 9. Documentation of infections of epidemiologic significance among employees.
 10. Information obtained from the Infection Control Plan # 07-012 in improving individuals receiving services care.
 11. Evaluations that result in assessment of rates and the use of valid epidemiological methods.
- B. Surveillance of nosocomial infections on residential units shall consist of identifying the infection and completing the Client Infection Reporting Form # Q002. The form shall be completed by the Nurse and/or Supervisor and forwarded to the Infection Control Practitioner. The ICP will record on a log the number of nosocomial infections. Analysis will be done to determine trends and problem areas. Remediation will be based on this information.
- C. As feasible, analysis of employee infections will be done to determine trends and problem areas. Remediation will be based on this information.
- D. This procedure will be reviewed annually by the EOC Committee and the Infection Control Practitioner. Revisions will be made as needed.

V. REFERENCES

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (TJC)
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)