

CDC Vitalsign Healthcare Infection Control



Problem

Action is needed now to stop these deadly infections.

Each year, more than 1 million people in the United States get a healthcare-associated infection (HAI). About 100,000 people die from these infections. The CDC estimates that the cost of treating HAIs is \$45 billion each year. HAIs are preventable, but they are often caused by bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. This makes them harder to treat. HAIs are also a leading cause of death in hospitals. The CDC is working to reduce the number of HAIs by promoting best practices for infection control. These practices include hand hygiene, proper use of antibiotics, and proper use of medical equipment. The CDC is also working to improve the way we collect and report data on HAIs. This will help us better understand the problem and find ways to prevent it.



What Can Be Done

Antibiotic Stewardship

- Use antibiotics only when needed and for the right reason.
- Use the right antibiotic, at the right dose, for the right length of time.
- Monitor patients for side effects and effectiveness.
- Educate patients and the public about antibiotic use.

Hand Hygiene

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching surfaces in public places.

Health Care Infection Control

- Follow CDC guidelines for infection control.
- Use proper techniques for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- Use proper techniques for handling and disposing of sharps.
- Use proper techniques for handling and disposing of blood and body fluids.