



The APIC 2018 Legislative Agenda

Support \$21 million for the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network in FY 2018

Healthcare-associated infections and the National Healthcare Safety Network

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are among the leading causes of preventable harm and death in the United States. One in 25 patients will contract an HAI on any given day, totaling approximately 722,000 infections and 75,000 deaths annually. An increasing number of these infections are resistant to antibiotics. APIC members, known as infection preventionists, work to prevent HAIs by isolating sources of infections and educating healthcare personnel on how to limit their spread.

HAIs are tracked and monitored on a national level using the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). NHSN data:

- Provide means to evaluate progress towards national HAI elimination goals;
- Allow CDC and health facilities to target HAI prevention initiatives;
- Provide critical answers regarding the prevalence of HAIs in the U.S.

Continued support of NHSN would:

- Expand critical user support for NHSN to additional facilities across the spectrum of care;
- Enable expansion of NHSN's Antibiotic Use and Resistance (AUR) module reporting options. The AUR data will be used to guide local and regional efforts to reduce resistance and provide national benchmarks to promote safer use of antibiotics.

Support \$200 million for CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative in FY 2018

Antibiotic Resistance and Stewardship

Antibiotic resistance is a growing public health concern. Each year in the United States, at least 2 million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections. Investments in the Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative would:

- Continue efforts to expand HAI and antibiotic resistance prevention efforts to cover all 50 states, six large cities, and Puerto Rico;
- Sustain the Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network of seven AR Regional Labs to serve as a national resource for cutting-edge lab support to states and characterize emerging resistance;
- Implement antibiotic stewardship programs that align with CDC's Core Elements for Antibiotic Stewardship in inpatient, outpatient, and long-term care settings;
- Drive innovation through the CDC's collaboration with academic research centers to conduct applied research on a variety of issues including: the microbiome, human and veterinary antibiotic use, infection control and prevention, and antibiotic resistance.
- Incorporate NHSN antibiotic use data to improve prescribing practices.

APIC recognizes that successful efforts to combat antibiotic resistance must also include protecting the effectiveness of all antibiotics through antibiotic stewardship.

Protect HAI Funding in the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF)

PPHF Infection Prevention Investments

More than 12% of the CDC budget is supplied through the PPHF, providing funding for critical programs such as:

Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Program

In FY 2017, the Prevention and Public Health Fund invested \$40 million into the ELC program, allowing the CDC to support states in strengthening their ability to detect and respond to infectious disease and other public health threats, including increasing the use of electronic laboratory reporting and improving their information technology infrastructure through the ELC program. This capability has been critical in recent outbreaks including those related to multistate foodborne illness, influenza, and fungal meningitis, and provides a foundation for the antibiotic resistance program that can avert \$7.7 billion in healthcare spending over the next five years.

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)

With PPHF funds, CDC supports health departments in all states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico to enhance their capacity to detect, respond, prevent and control HAIs. In FY 2017, PPHF investments in HAIs totaled \$12 million. Examples from two states show the power of public health interventions to reduce HAIs. Facilities in Michigan's Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) Surveillance and Prevention Initiative have prevented at least 153 CRE infections and reported a 33% reduction in CRE-positive cultures among participating facilities. In one long-term acute care facility, the prevalence of CRE decreased from 37% to 7%. This was achieved by initiating admission surveillance, patient isolation, contact precautions, and conducting cultures every 30 days. Connecticut's Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative improves stewardship practices in select acute care hospitals and long-term care facilities. Preliminary results show 13% fewer *Clostridium difficile* infections and 17% fewer Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections than non-collaborative facilities.

Immunization

CDC's immunization program is vital to achieving the goal of protecting Americans from infectious diseases. For FY 2017, PPHF investments make up 40% (\$324.4 million) of total funding for immunization programs. Losing this funding would cripple CDC's ability to detect, prevent, and respond to vaccine-preventable respiratory and related infectious disease threats including pandemic influenza.

Who are infection preventionists and what do they do?

About APIC

APIC's mission is to create a safer world through prevention of infection. The association's more than 15,000 members direct infection prevention programs that save lives and improve the bottom line for hospitals and other healthcare facilities. APIC advances its mission through patient safety, implementation science, competencies and certification, advocacy, and data standardization. Visit APIC online at www.apic.org. Follow APIC on Twitter: www.twitter.com/apic and Facebook: www.facebook.com/APICInfectionPreventionandYou. For information on what patients and families can do, visit APIC's Infection Prevention and You website at www.apic.org/infectionpreventionandyou.

What do infection preventionists do?

Infection preventionists play a significant role in:

- Developing proven policies to ensure a safe environment for patients.
- Ensuring compliance with standards and regulations designed to protect patients and healthcare personnel.
- Tracking and monitoring activities to identify and prevent HAIs and other infectious agents.
- Leading and participating in healthcare quality improvement efforts designed to protect patients.
- Educating the public and healthcare personnel about infectious diseases and how to limit their spread.
- Serving as leaders in preparing healthcare facilities and personnel to be ready for public health threats such as an influenza pandemic; infectious disease outbreaks such as Ebola; and acts of bioterrorism.
- Reporting communicable diseases to the CDC.