Infection Prevention
Workforce and Education

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Who is SHEA?

Mission: Promote the prevention of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) and antibiotic resistance and advance the fields of healthcare epidemiology and antibiotic stewardship.

2,000 members are leaders in infection prevention, sharing a common interest in improving patient outcomes.

SHEA
• Advances the field of healthcare epidemiology and antibiotic stewardship
• Translates research into clinical practice
• Develops smart policy
• Prioritizes the research agenda

Together, we are working to build a safer, healthier future for all.
Essential Activities of Infection Prevention/Healthcare Epidemiology Programs

- Surveillance
- Performance improvement to reduce HAIs
- Acute event response, including outbreak investigation and high consequence infections
- Education and training of healthcare personnel and patients
- Reporting of HAIs
Healthcare Epidemiologist

• Key leader of infection prevention/healthcare epidemiology programs
  - Physician
  - Diverse responsibilities
  - Program advocacy
  - External stakeholder relations
  - Training and professional development
Healthcare Epidemiologist

Competencies

• Epidemiology
• Subject matter expert for internal and external stakeholders
• Quality and performance improvement leader
• Healthcare administrator
• Outcome assessment evaluator and researcher
• Regulatory and public health liaison
• Clinician educator/teacher
• Antibiotic stewardship
Knowledge gaps for practitioners of infection prevention/healthcare epidemiology and stewardship

• Leadership skills
• Implementation science
• Behavior science
• Management of interventions
• Non-acute care settings
SHEA as a Leader

Experience in training and the continued development of the healthcare epidemiologist workforce

• Course development, implementation, dissemination
• Publications
  • Journals, textbooks, expert guidance, white papers
• Conferences
• Mentorship
• Special focus for those practicing in the community setting
• Diversity of faculty and authors/researchers outside the traditional healthcare epidemiology field (e.g., behavioral scientists, environmental experts)
• Collaboration with CDC and other professional societies and entities to provide basic to advanced training opportunities
Healthcare Workforce

• Healthcare epidemiology/infection prevention has the highest impact when evidence-based practices become part of the healthcare culture
  - Appropriate and relevant training for all healthcare personnel in all healthcare settings
  - Challenges: Time, methods of delivery and principles of adult education, reinforcement, gaps in knowledge and science
• Interdependence among variety of practitioners
• Healthcare epidemiologist workforce shortage across the continuum of care

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