



New Mexico
Hospital Association

May 27, 2008

Representative Henry Waxman
Congress of the United States
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6143

Cha
Despres
Health

Dear Representative Waxman,

Thank you for taking the time to elicit information from the New Mexico Hospital Association on efforts to decrease healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). New Mexico hospitals are committed to patient safety and to providing high quality of care to every patient in the state. The answers to your questions posed in your letter of May 6 are as follows:

1. *Median and overall rate of central line-associated infections in the intensive care units in hospitals in New Mexico?*
 - NM rate is unknown at this time.
2. *If rates are unknown, do you have plans to replicate Michigan Hospital Association program in New Mexico?*
 - There are no MHA-type plans being considered at this time.
3. *What other activities are member hospitals taking to address healthcare-associated infections? Which infections are you targeting?*
 - Under the direction of the New Mexico Department of Health, the Healthcare-Associated Infections Committee was convened in March, 2008. A minimum of three hospitals (currently six are enrolled) will utilize the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to report voluntarily on: i) central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) in adult intensive care units and ii) influenza vaccination rates of healthcare workers.
 - Results for the first year will not be publicly reported, but will serve as a model for any future legislation in the state. An analysis of the first month of data collection should occur no later than July 30, 2008. After the pilot period is complete, the measures may be expanded to all acute care hospitals, and will align New Mexico's efforts with national movements.

Please feel free to contact me at the New Mexico Hospital Association should you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Responds to a
May 6, 2008, letter

Jeff Dye, President/CEO
New Mexico Hospital Association