

County of Santa Clara

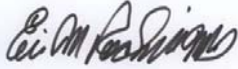
Public Health Department



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July 15, 2010

To: Santa Clara County EMS System Providers

From: Eric M. Rudnick, MD, FACEP
EMS Medical Director 

Subject: Drug Resistant Bacteria at Skilled Nursing Facility

It has come to our attention that there has been an increased incidence of Acinetobacter in the skilled nursing community. This issue is not new and has been identified since March 2010. The State Public Health Department has been contacted and involved in surveillance studies.

The bacterium identified as Acinetobacter, is a multi-drug resistant gram negative organism. As always these drug resistant organisms need to be treated with respect. Prehospital crews need to exercise universal precautions and excellent hand hygiene! These two actions will do the most for the protection of providers and future patients.

For the average healthy individual there is no increased risk for contracting this bacterium. Transmission of the bacterium is contact/fluid based and again universal precautions and diligent hand washing is advised. The patients at greatest risk for being colonized with Acinetobacter are chronically ill, immunocompromised, and with indwelling devices such as Foleys, G-tubes, on chronic ventilator support and open wounds.

Equipment that has been in contact or is suspected to have been in contact with any possible exposed patients should be cleaned diligently and meticulously. Please utilize your standard policy and procedures for cleaning contaminated equipment. Which specific cleaning agent(s) are most appropriate/effective at killing this organism are not known at this time. The question is being sent to the State Health Department for a definitive answer. Until such time continue your current cleaning regimen, including which ever cleaning agent you employ at this time.

We are in continuing communication with Dr. Sara Cody, Deputy County Health Officer and will convey any further instructions if and when available.

*Board of Supervisors: Donald F. Gage, George Shirakawa, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, Liz Kniss
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith*