



Public Health Quarterly

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR OUTPATIENT SETTINGS FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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How Public Health Can Help You

The Healthcare Outreach Unit (HOU) within the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program (ACDC) of the Department of Public Health works with various healthcare settings including hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, private practices, dental clinics, home health agencies, and more. Our goal is to reduce the burden of healthcare associated infections (HAIs) in Los Angeles County by improving infection prevention activities in all healthcare settings.

The Outpatient Team within the HOU is available to provide your facility with resources, audit toolkits, training materials, outbreak support and more.

For more information go to:
<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/HOU.htm>
 or email Outpatient@ph.lacounty.gov



Map of Los Angeles County broken down by Service Planning Areas or SPAs.

Important Updates from Public Health

Influenza

As we enter flu season, Public Health recommends all healthcare personnel receive the annual Influenza vaccine. In addition, it is important to screen patients for respiratory illness when they enter your facility or if possible, in advance. It is also recommended to post signs in waiting areas reminding patients and visitors of respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette and to let someone know if they are experiencing flu like symptoms. For helpful print materials go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/freeresources/print/index.htm>

Hepatitis A

On September 19, 2017, LA County Public Health declared an outbreak of Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) among persons who are homeless and/or use illicit drugs. The HAV vaccine is recommended for persons who are homeless and/or use illicit drugs, as well as person who have frequent close contact with these populations. This includes those who handle or serve food or provide personal care or sanitation services to these populations. Suspect cases should be reported immediately while the patient is still at the clinical facility to (888) 397-3993.

West Nile Virus

LA is now entering the peak months of transmission for West Nile Virus (WNV). As of September 22, 2017, 98 WNV cases were documented in LA, including 6 deaths. Preliminary reports of new illness this past week indicate WNV is occurring across LAC. Across California, there have been 161 WNV cases as of September 19, 2017. Primary care physicians are strongly encouraged to discuss mosquito precautions with their patients. For more information about WNV in LA visit: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/VectorWestNile.htm>

Infection Control Assessments

DPH has investigated numerous outbreaks in Los Angeles County outpatient settings, and has found that the majority are associated with lapses in infection control and prevention.

From 2016-17, the HOU performed infection control assessments at 20 ambulatory surgery centers throughout LA County using standardized tools provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All visits were voluntary and lasted for one day. While onsite, the HOU team reviewed the facility's infection control policies and procedures, then performed direct observations of staff during pre and post-operative care, surgical procedures, room turnover, and device reprocessing. Each facility was provided with a detailed report and targeted resources following the visit.

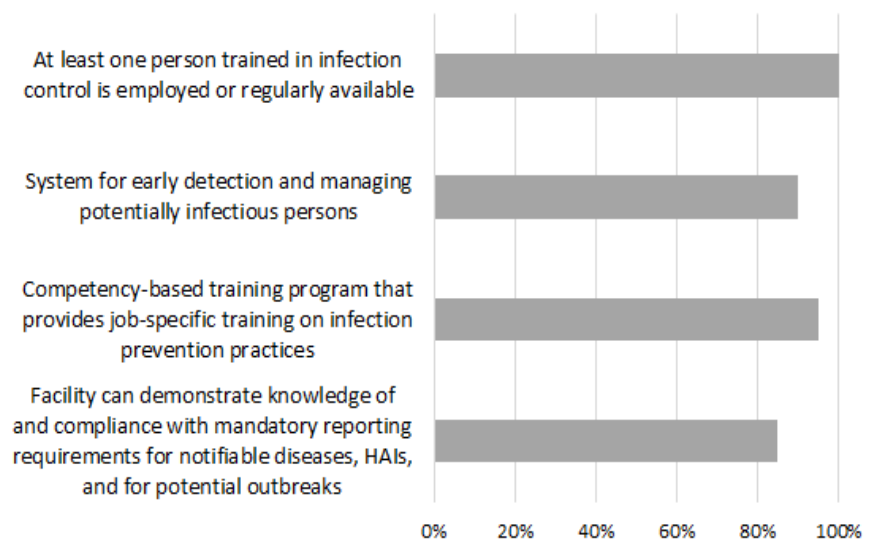
For ASCs that did not participate in this project but are interested in assessing their infection prevention program, consider self-assessment using the same CDC tools (<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/icar/outpatient.pdf>). Contact outpatient@ph.lacounty.gov for assistance.

Demographics

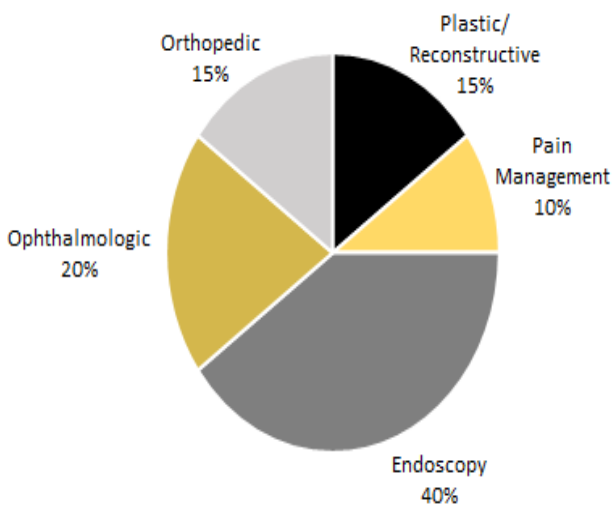
	n (%)
Certified by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)	18 (90%)
Accredited	16 (80%)
Median Number of Physicians who Work at Facility (range)	16 (1-100)
Median Number of Patients seen per Week (range)	53.5 (12-200)
Average Number of Operating and/or Procedure Rooms (range)	2.6 (1-5)

Policies and Procedures

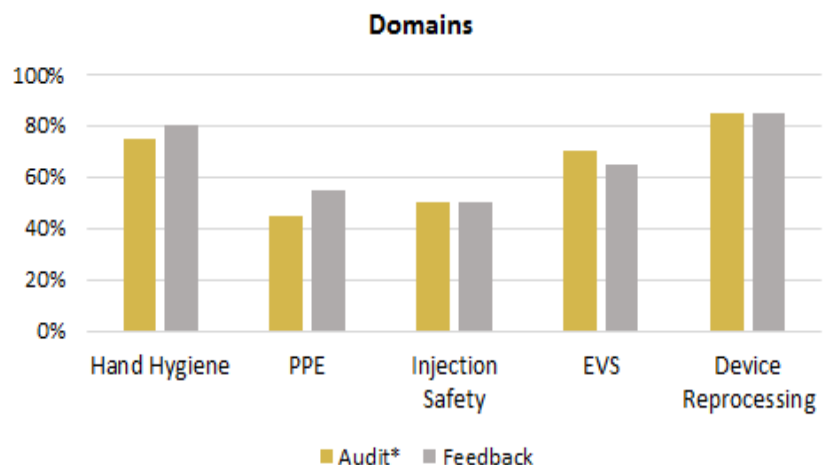
Infection Control Program Features



Primary Procedure Type Performed by Facility



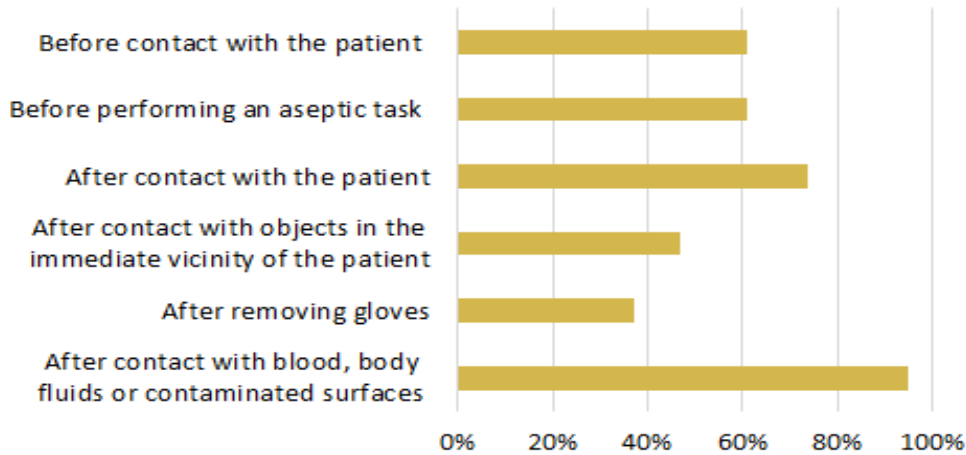
Audit and Feedback Practices for Infection Control



**Per the CDC, auditing is a formal process that must include both monitoring and documentation; therefore, a facility may provide feedback but not have a formal auditing process.*

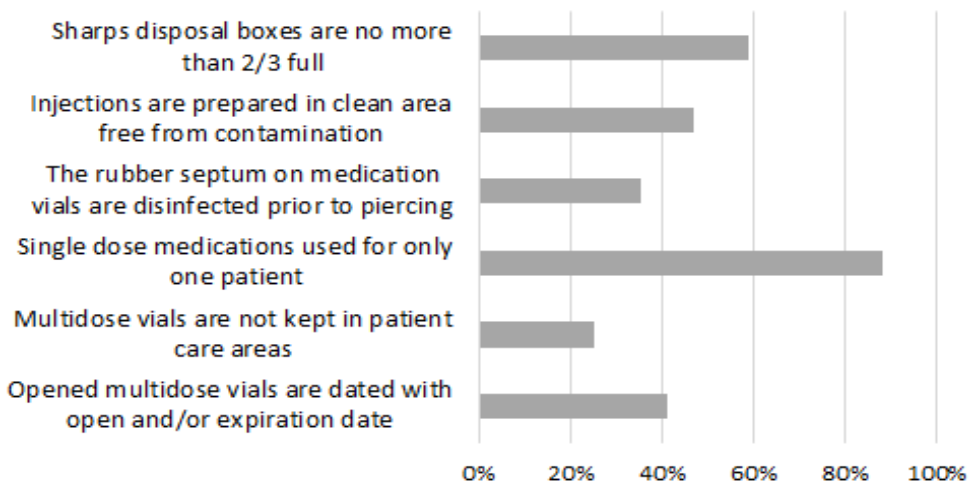
Direct Observations

Proper Hand Hygiene Practices Observed...

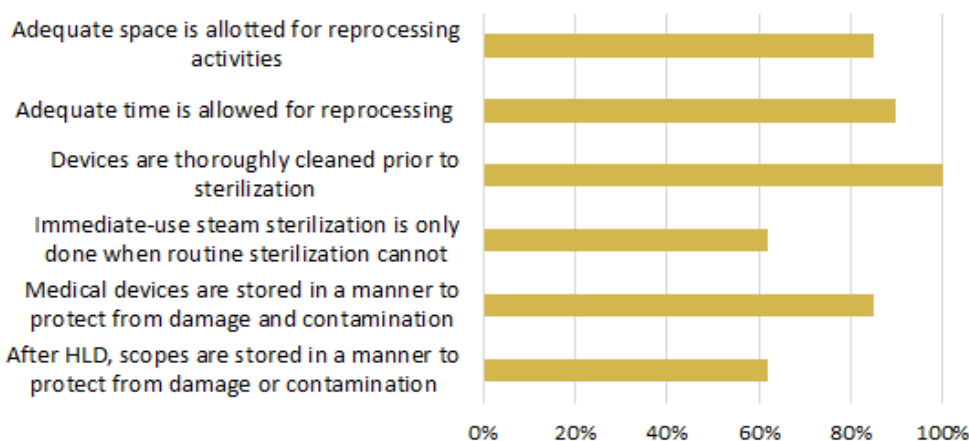


Only 37% of staff performed hand hygiene after removing gloves.

Safe Injection Practices



Device Reprocessing, High Level Disinfection (HLD), and Sterilization Practices



Medical devices were stored properly 85% of the time, while scopes were only stored in a manner free from contamination 61% of the time.

Local Spotlight

This quarter, we highlight the Infection Prevention program at Surgery Center of Long Beach.

At the Surgery Center of Long Beach our providers and support staff strive for excellence in all areas and believe that at the core of every successful surgical program is a comprehensive Infection Prevention Program. Our team members are the driving force behind successful integration and management of the Infection Control Program. Everyone collaborates in the decision-making process and is dedicated to implementing the daily responsibilities to make the Infection Control Program effective and successful.

A few years ago, we took the Infection Control Audit tool from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) and personalized it to our center's needs. Each month, a staff member completes this audit on our center. This helps them to become familiar with the CMS survey questions and reinforces our goals with the Infection Prevention Program.

Another way we involved the staff with the decision-making process, was through our hand hygiene improvement project. Our sales representative brought in samples of hand sanitizer and different hand soaps for us to test. The staff decided which products they wanted to use and where to place them throughout the center, so that they would be visible and easy to access. This allowed them to take ownership of the project and really run it from the ground up.

With the health and safety of our patients at the forefront of our care model, we are constantly evaluating our protocols and looking for ways to improve infection prevention best practices. Infection prevention is a living, fluid process, which needs constant attention and everyone's eyes on the topic. Infection prevention is most effective when it is built into the culture of the support staff and clinical providers.

Erin Johnson, RN, CIC

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COMING UP FROM PUBLIC HEALTH

“Beyond the Basics of Infection Prevention”

November 29th and 30th, 2017 at The California Endowment - 1000 N. Alameda St, Los Angeles 90012

This course is an educational program held by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for Infection Preventionists (IPs) and associated staff who work in acute health care settings, including general acute care hospitals, long-term acute care hospitals, dialysis centers and ambulatory surgery centers. The course is adapted from California Department of Public Health's "Basics of Infection Prevention" course and intended for beginning and intermediate IPs. It is free to attend and those who attend both days are eligible for nursing CEUs (approximately 10). To register go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2DayNov17>

U.S. Antibiotics Week Educational Kick Off Event

November 13, 2017 at The California Endowment—1000 N Alameda St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Formerly “Get Smart About Antibiotics Week”, this is an annual one-week observance to raise awareness of the threat of antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate prescribing and use. In observance, DPH is hosting a free educational event which will cover multiple disciplines across the continuum of care. Anyone with an interest in antimicrobial stewardship is encouraged to attend. If interested, e-mail Chelsea Foo at cfoo@ph.lacounty.gov.

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