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Risk Management Tips

Double-Check Your Facility's Injection Procedures

Training your staff to follow injection practices is crucial in preventing patient-to-patient transmission of blood borne pathogens. In the January 6 issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the CDC reported data from a new study that has implications for a need to define and reinforce safe injection practices.

A review of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) outbreak information revealed 33 outbreaks in non-hospital health care settings in the last decade: 12 in outpatient clinics, 6 in hemodialysis centers, and 15 in long-term care facilities resulting. This resulted in 448 persons acquiring the HBV or HCV infection. These recognized outbreaks are difficult to detect and indicate a wider and growing problem.

The concern is that smaller facilities like physicians' offices and outpatient clinics have limited resources for infection control training and oversight, therefore diligence is necessary to ensure safe practices. MAG Mutual's Risk Management & Patient Safety Department recommends that practices pay particular attention to these unsafe methods:

- Using a bag of saline or IV fluid for more than one patient or accessing the bag with a syringe that has already been used to flush a patient's IV or catheter.
- Accessing a shared medical vial with a syringe that has already been used to administer medication.
- Using the same syringe to administer medication to more than one patient, even if the needle was changed.

The examples above may seem outlandish; however, in some facilities this is commonplace and they run a high risk using multi-dose medication vials and multiuse saline bags. Many others admit to using syringes more than once.

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Dr. Bono Appointed to MAG Mutual's Board of Directors



Michael J. Bono, M.D., FACEP has served on MAG Mutual's North Carolina and Virginia Claims Committees and was recently appointed to serve as a member of our Company's Board of Directors. **Dr. Roy Vandiver, Chairman**, remarked on the selection. "Mike has proven to be a great

asset to MAG Mutual in the claims arena. He understands the needs and challenges of our policyholders and, that has only been strengthened through his work as a practicing physician and medical school professor – a rare combination. We look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead, and I am certain our association will be a productive one."

Dr. Bono attended the University of Virginia and obtained his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School. The Board Certified Emergency Physician is affiliated with numerous hospitals in the Norfolk area and currently serves as a professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at his alma mater, Eastern Virginia Medical School.

He serves several organizations, including the Medical Society of Virginia, the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Society for Academic Medicine.●

*Dr. Bono's appointment replaces Dr. Charles Nicholson, who resigned from the Board December, 2008.

MAG Mutual Policyholder to Assume National Post

Joseph W. Stubbs, M.D., FACP, an internist practicing in Albany, Ga., will become President of the American College of Physicians this April at the ACP Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. He was elected President-Elect last spring, and

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Fortunately the CDC and OSHA offer a number of resources to improve injection safety. In addition you may want to contact your local hospital's infection control department for samples of any checklists or tools they've developed to help with staff training and compliance. Perhaps now is the time to double check your facility's procedures to ensure your patients are always afforded basic levels of protection against blood borne pathogen transmission.●

References:

Don't get hit for unsafe injection procedures HCPRO OSHA Healthcare Advisor January 20, 2009, Peggy Leubbert.

Non-hospital Health Care-Associated Hepatitis B and C Virus Transmission: United States, 1998-2008 Annuals of Internal Medicine 6 January 2009 | Volume 150 Issue 1 | Pages 33-39.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Safe Injection Practices to Prevent Transmission of Infections to Patients (2007)
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/injectionSafetyPractices.html#>

(MAG Mutual Policyholder to Assume National Post, continued from page 1)

will be the second Georgian this decade to assume the College Presidency.

Among his many activities for the ACP, Dr. Stubbs is currently serving second terms on the Board of Regents and as a board of trustee of the ACP Foundation. He is also the immediate past Chair of the Medical Service Program Committees; and has served on the Member



Insurance, Publications, and the Managed Care Subcommittees.

Dr. Stubbs has been active in the ACP Georgia Chapter, joining the Governor's Council in 1988 and serving on the Public and Professional Communications Committee, the Health and Public Policy Committee, and as Chapter Secretary. He was elected to serve the 1999-2003 term as ACP Governor for Georgia. In 2003, he was named a Laureate of the Georgia Chapter. That year, the Georgia Chapter was recognized by ACP with an Evergreen Award for outstanding chapter activities in the advocacy area.

A summa cum laude graduate from The College of William and Mary in 1975, Dr. Stubbs received his medical degree, summa cum laude, from Emory University School of Medicine in 1979. His postdoctoral training included an internship, residency in internal medicine and primary care, and training as chief resident at the University of Washington affiliated hospitals in Seattle. Dr. Stubbs is board-certified in internal medicine and geriatric medicine and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP). FACP is an honorary designation that recognizes ongoing individual service and contributions to the practice of medicine.

Dr. Stubbs is a member of the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition Prevention Task Force. He has also served on the Medical Association of Georgia Legislative Council and is the past President of the Dougherty County Medical Society.●

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