



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.  
Cabinet Secretary

Date: March 17, 2011

Dear Hospital CEO,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recently announced that central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) have dropped by 58% in intensive care units in US hospitals between 2001 and 2009. This represents an estimated saving of 3,000 – 6,000 lives and \$414 million in 2009 alone.

This remarkable decrease is due to widespread implementation of proven best practices for insertion of central lines. Many hospitals, including those in West Virginia have participated in successful prevention collaboratives such as On the CUSP: Stop BSI. See:

<http://www.safercare.net/OTCSBSI/Home.html>

In 2009, West Virginia organized a multidisciplinary advisory group to develop a Healthcare Associated Infections Plan for the state. See:

<http://www.wvidep.org/HealthcareAssociatedInfections/tabid/1912/Default.aspx> In accordance with objectives 3.1 and 3.2 of this plan, we are requesting that your hospital pledge ongoing resources for implementation of Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) guidelines for CLABSI prevention.

The Advisory Group asks you, your chief of medical staff and your infection preventionist sign the attached "CLABSI Prevention Commitment letter" and return to West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (WVBPH) by Friday, April 15, 2011.

A checklist and the guideline "Strategies to prevent CLABSI in acute care hospitals" are attached. Also, please find a copy of the MMWR, dated March 1, 2011 announcing dramatic reductions in CLABSIs nationwide. Information on West Virginia CLABSI rates may be found at: <http://www.hcawv.org/Infect/HAIRReport.pdf>

Please do not hesitate to contact Thein Shwe at 304-558-5358 should you have any questions or visit West Virginia Infectious Disease Epidemiology website: [www.wvidep.org](http://www.wvidep.org). Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to elimination of CLABSI in our state.

Sincerely,

West Virginia Healthcare Associated Infection Advisory Group

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**Bureau for Public Health**  
**Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services**  
**DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY**  
Room 125, 350 Capitol Street  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3715  
(304) 558-5358 or 1-800-423-1271

**Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI) Prevention Strategies  
Commitment Letter**

Please check one option:

\_\_\_\_ (Your facility name) \_\_\_\_\_ is committed to prevent central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) and will implement the SHEA/IDSA guideline on "Strategies to prevent CLABSI in acute care hospitals". We will commit resources to implementing these best practices in our facility.

OR

\_\_\_\_ (Your facility name) \_\_\_\_\_ does not insert central lines in the facility.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Name of Hospital CEO/CCO Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Name of Chief of Staff Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Name of Infection Preventionist Date

Please return this signed form in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope by April 15, 2011:  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources  
Bureau for Public Health  
Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology  
ATTN Thein Shwe  
350 Capitol St. Rm. 125  
Charleston, WV 25301-9896

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