

ISDH Long Term Care
Newsletter Issue # 10-06
March 15, 2010

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Severe Weather Preparedness Week



Statewide Tornado Drill:
Wednesday, March 17, 2010
Between 10:15 and 10:30 a.m. EDT
&
Between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. EDT

Leadership Conference

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) thanks the 1,208 attendees who attended the March 2 Leadership Conference on healthcare associated infections. That was the largest attendance of the seven conferences presented so far and a great kickoff to the Indiana Healthcare Associated Infection Initiative. Look for information on initiative participation in the coming month.

GPRA Update

GPRA Pressure Ulcer Rates Decline Again in 2009 Q3

One measure for the pressure ulcer initiative is data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As part of the Government Performance Responsibility Act (GPRA), CMS established pressure ulcers and restraints as their two GPRA goals. The GPRA data includes all Indiana nursing homes.

Since the beginning of the GPRA pressure ulcer data report going back to 2003, Indiana has had the highest pressure ulcer rate in CMS Region V. At the beginning of the CMS GPRA initiative in the fourth quarter of 2005, Indiana had a pressure ulcer rate in nursing homes 8.6%. In the first quarter of 2007, the Indiana rate was 8.7%.

In June 2008 the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) implemented the Indiana Pressure Ulcer Initiative. The first group of participants included 95 nursing homes, 40 hospitals, and 28 home health agencies. The first learning sessions were in October 2008. The first phase of the initiative concluded in August 2009.

At the end of the fourth quarter of 2008, the Indiana pressure ulcer rate in nursing homes was 8.3% and still the highest in the region. The data for the first quarter of 2009 showed a drop in the pressure ulcer rate to 8.0%. The data for the second quarter of 2009 showed another drop in the pressure ulcer rate to 7.6%.

The data for the third quarter of 2009 is in and shows another drop to 7.3%. In the past nine months Indiana has improved from a 36th national rank (51st being the highest rate) to 26th. The most recent Indiana data shows 393 fewer residents with pressure ulcers as compared to the end of 2008. Assuming one pressure ulcer per resident and a cost of \$20,000 to heal per pressure ulcer, the cost savings over the past six months is approximately \$8 million for nursing homes. Considering a similar decrease in hospitals, the health care savings over the past nine months is estimated to be approximately \$15 million.

This recent data demonstrates wonderful progress in the prevention of pressure ulcers. The ISDH congratulates all health care facilities who have successfully prevented pressure ulcers.

GPRA Restraint Rates Also Declined

While we are talking about GPRA rates, the Indiana restraint rate also continues to decline. In March 2008, the ISDH provided a Healthcare Leadership Conference on decreasing restraints. The restraint rate in Indiana nursing homes at the time was 4.0%. The Indiana rate at the end of 2008 was 3.1%. The rate for the third quarter of 2009 showed a continued drop to 2.5%. Congratulations to Indiana nursing homes on the continued efforts to reduce restraints.

Recalls

OneTouch SureStep Test Strips (LifeScan): Recall

[Posted 02/26/2010] LifeScan and FDA notified healthcare professionals of a voluntary recall of eight lots of OneTouch SureStep Test Strips, used by people with diabetes to measure their blood glucose levels at home. The test strips are being recalled because they may provide falsely low glucose results when the glucose level is higher than 400 mg/dL.

If patients use the falsely low test results to determine their insulin dose, they may give themselves too little insulin, which could result in poor blood glucose control. High blood glucose must be recognized and treated promptly to avoid serious complications, such as coma and death.

The eight lots of consumer OneTouch SureStep Test Strips being recalled are identified in the firm's press release. Lot numbers are located on the outer carton and test strip vial. LifeScan estimates approximately fourteen thousand packages (50- and 100-count) of consumer OneTouch SureStep Test Strips were distributed nationwide between August 1, 2009 and January 28, 2010.

It is important that patients with recalled test strips continue to test their blood glucose. Patients with access to a meter that does not use OneTouch SureStep Test Strips should use this other meter to test their blood glucose until replacement product from LifeScan arrives. If an alternate meter is not available, patients may continue to test using the recalled OneTouch SureStep Test Strips. However, if patients obtain results above 400 mg/dL, they should contact their healthcare professional for further instructions because their glucose may be significantly higher.

For more information, please visit the [FDA website](#).

Maalox Total Relief and Maalox Liquid Products: Medication Use Errors

[Posted 02/17/2010] FDA notified consumers and healthcare professionals about reports of serious medication errors involving consumers who used Maalox Total Relief when they had intended to use a Maalox liquid antacid product. Maalox Total Relief and the traditional Maalox products are both liquid medications available without a prescription, but are not interchangeable and are intended to treat different medical conditions. Maalox Total Relief is an upset stomach reliever and anti-diarrheal medication, while traditional Maalox liquid products Maalox Advanced Regular Strength and Maalox Advanced Maximum Strength are antacids.

Maalox Total Relief is not appropriate for individuals who want to use an antacid, since it contains the active ingredient bismuth subsalicylate which is chemically related to aspirin and may cause serious adverse effects such as bleeding. Maalox Total Relief should not be used in people who have or have a history of gastrointestinal ulcers or a bleeding disorder. It also should not be taken by children and teens if they are recovering from a viral infection, nor by individuals who are taking certain medications including: oral antidiabetic drugs (OADs), anticoagulation (thinning the blood) drugs such as warfarin (Coumadin) and clopidogrel (Plavix), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and other anti-inflammatory drugs.

The Drug Safety Communication and Consumer Update contain additional information for healthcare professionals and consumers, as well as product label photos.

For more information, please visit the [FDA website](#).

Severe Weather Preparedness Week

March 15-19 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana. Weather hazard outlooks provide everyone with a time frame to plan ahead and to check resources. At the outlook stage for severe weather, it is a time frame to begin reviewing your plans and to begin paying closer attention to daily weather forecasts and the particular severe weather threat.

Your job is to monitor national weather service outlooks to determine your need for hazard preparations. Should a threat of severe weather be forecasted, you should check to make sure you have all the supplies you would need for an emergency. You should also review your safety evacuations plans to make sure you have a safe location to go should severe weather occur.

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Best wishes for the week.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health