

Is your Surveillance Prevention and Control of Infection connected to the operating margin?

Dear Director:

Did you know? The cost of Hospital acquired infections is significant to your organization:

- Approximately 10% of hospitalized patients acquired an infection.
- A hospital acquired infection adds 50% additional time to a patient's length of stay (LOS).
- The average incremental cost to treat a hospital acquired infection is **\$11,300.00**.
- Infections cost the United States healthcare system \$6.7 billion each year.
- A 300 bed hospital loses \$3.1 million in revenue per year on beds that are utilized by patients who acquired an infection while hospitalized.
- **MRSA** infections are rising in hospitals and long-term care facilities and also
- have increasingly been found in the community. The direct medical cost of this complication ranges from \$27,083 to \$34,900 per case.
- An Infection Control Nurse or ICP using Target surveillance identify, on average, only about **one tenth** of all hospital infections that occur within the hospital.
- In most cases the hospital is not aware of the impact because of underreporting.

References:

1. Stone P, Larson E, Kawar L. A Systematic Audit of Economic Evidence Linking Nosocomial Infection and Infection Control Interventions: 1990 -2000; AJIC 2002