

Definitions and Surveillance for Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) in Long-term Care

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Associate Director SPICE



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How confident are you that your facility has a strong infection prevention program that includes all the necessary elements?

- A. Completely confident
- B. Somewhat confident
- C. Not confident
- D. Have NO idea



Do you believe you have the skills and the qualifications to oversee the infection prevention program?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. No way; No how

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If you wanted to compare your IP surveillance data to another NH in your community that cared for a similar resident population, how confident are you that events will be tracked the same way?

- A. Very confident
- B. Slightly confident
- C. Not confident at all
- D. Not sure if I can compare my own data from one year to the next



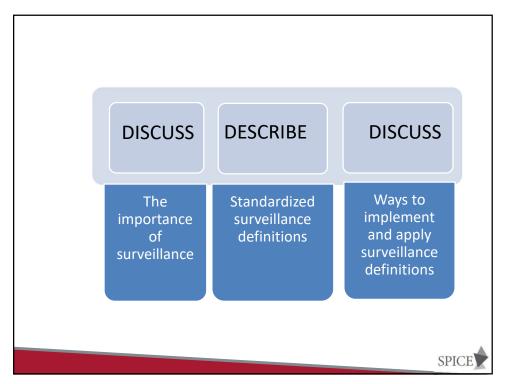
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What standardized definition does your facility use for surveillance?

- A. National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
- B. Revised McGeer Definitions
- C. Loeb Criteria
- D. When the physician documents an infection
- E. No standardized criteria
- F. A and B

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- "Surveillance is a comprehensive method of <u>measuring</u> outcomes and related processes of care, <u>analyzing</u> the data, and <u>providing</u> information to members of the healthcare team to assist in <u>improving</u> those outcomes and processes (APIC Text)
- "Surveillance system must include "routine, ongoing, and systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of surveillance data to identify infections (i.e., HAI and communicable-acquired), infection risks, communicable disease outbreaks and to maintain or improve resident health status:" (CMS 2/23)



Rationale for Conducting Surveillance

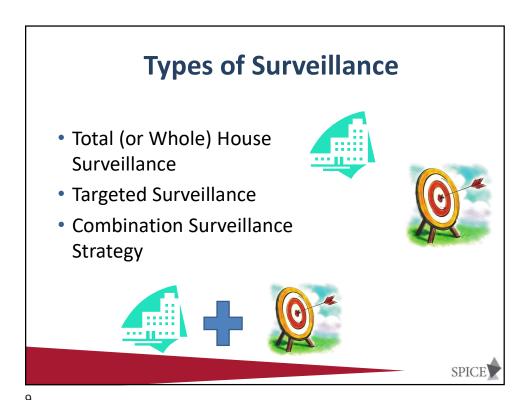
- One of the most important aspects of an IP's responsibilities
- Should cover residents, staff, contractors (in the facility) and visitors
- Include process and outcome measures



Establish Baseline Data Reduce Infection Rates Detection of Outbreaks Monitor Effectiveness of Interventions Education of HCP

Required as a Component of Plan





Total (Whole House) Pros Cons • Monitor: - All infections Monitor all infections Overall rate not sensitive or risk-- Entire population adjusted - All units Include entire No trends or comparison population Labor intense and inefficient use of resources Not based on risk assessment SPICE'

Priority Directed (Targeted)

- Focus on:
 - Care units
 - Infections related to devices
 - Invasive procedures
 - Significant organisms epidemiologically important
 - High-risk, high-volume procedures
 - Infections having known risk reduction methods



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Targeted Surveillance

Pros	Cons
Risk-adjusted rates	May miss some infections
Can measure trends and make comparisons	Limited information on endemic rates
More efficient use of resources	
Can target potential problems	
Identify performance improvement opportunities	
Can evaluate effectiveness of prevention activities	

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Combination

- Monitor:
 - Targeted events in defined populations and
 - Selected whole-house events
- Pros:
 - Rates are risk-adjusted
 - Measure trends
 - Target potential problems
 - Track selected events house-wide
- Cons:
 - May miss some infections





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Selection of Processes and Outcomes

Processes

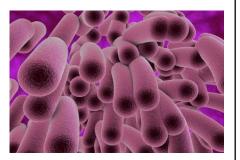
- Hand hygiene
- Urinary Catheter insertion/maintenance

Outcomes

- Acute respiratory infections
- · Urinary tract infections
- Skin/Soft Tissue Infections
- Gastroenteritis









Consideration for Choosing Outcome Measures

- Mandatory/required-Cat 1C
- *Frequency (incidence) of the infection
- *Communicability
- *System/resident cost (个mortality, hospitalization)
- *Early Detection

*Based on the Infection Prevention risk assessment



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	Points to Consider	Infections	Comments
S <u>hould</u> be included in routine surveillance	Evidence of transmissibility in a healthcare setting	Viral respiratory tract infections, viral GE, and viral conjunctivitis	Associated with outbreaks among residents and HCP in LTCFs
	Processes available to prevent acquisition of infection, i.e., HH compliance		
	Clinically significant cause of morbidity or mortality	Pneumonia, UTI, GI tract infections, (including C. difficile) and SSTI	Associated with hospitalization and functional decline in LTCF residents
	Specific pathogens causing serious outbreaks	Any invasive group A Streptococcus infection, acute viral hepatitis, norovirus, scabies, influenza- COVID-19, C auris	A single laboratory- confirmed case should prompt further investigation

Infections that <u>could</u> be included in routine surveillance

Points to Consider	Infections	Comments
Infections with limited transmissibility in a healthcare settings	Ear and sinus infections, fungal oral and skin infections and herpetic skin infections	Associated with underlying comorbid conditions and reactivation of endogenous infection
Infections with limited preventability		

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Infections for which other accepted definitions should be applied in LTCF surveillance

Points to Consider	Infections	Comments
Infections with other accepted definitions (may apply to only specific at-risk residents)	Surgical site infections, central-line- associated bloodstream infections and ventilator-associated pneumonia	LTCF-specific definitions were not developed. Refer to the National Healthcare Safety Network's criteria

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Sources of Data for Surveillance

- Clinical ward/unit rounds
- Medical Chart
- Lab reports
- Kardex/Patient Profile/Temperature logs
- Antibiotic Starts
- IT support



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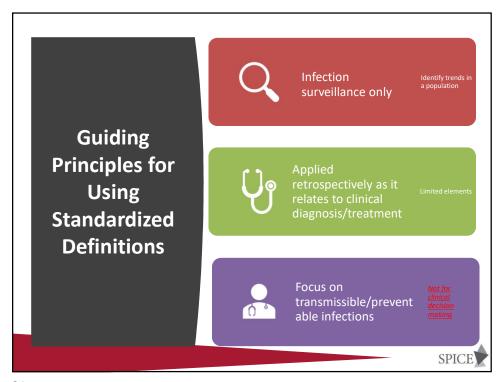
Surveillance

 The facility's surveillance system must include a data collection tool and the use of nationally-recognized surveillance criteria such as but not limited to, the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Long Term Care Criteria to define infections or revised McGeer criteria

State Operations Manual
Appendix PP - Guidance to Surveyors for
Long Term Care Facilities

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(Rev. 02-03-2023)



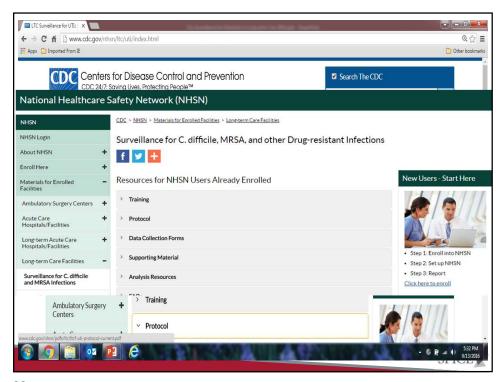


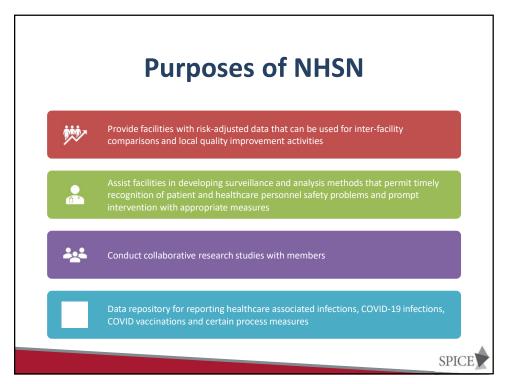
Minimum Criteria for Initiation
of Antibiotics in Long-Term Care Residents

Suspected Urinary Tract Infection

Loeb et al. Development of Minimum Criteria for the Initiation of Antibiotics in Residents of Long-Term
Care Facilities: Results of a Consensus Conference.

Inf Control Hosp Epi. 2001







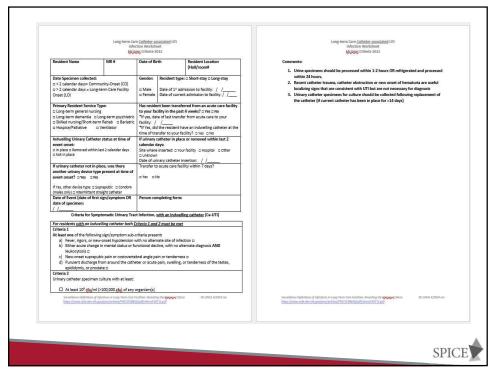
INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OCTOBER 2012, VOL. 33, NO. 10

SHEA/CDC POSITION PAPER

Surveillance Definitions of Infections in Long-Term Care Facilities: Revisiting the McGeer Criteria

Nimalie D. Stone, MD; Muhammad S. Ashraf, MD; Jennifer Calder, PhD; Christopher J. Crnich, MD; Kent Crossley, MD; Paul J. Drinka, MD; Carolyn V. Gould, MD; Manisha Juthani-Mehta, MD; Ebbing Lautenbach, MD; Mark Loeb, MD; Taranisia MacCannell, PhD; Preeti N. Malani, MD; Lina Mody, MD; Mosph M. Mylotte, MD; Lindsay E. Nicolle, MD; Mary-Claire Roghmann, MD; Steven J. Schweon, MSN; Andrew E. Simor, MD; Philip W. Smith, MD; Kurt B. Stevenson, MD; Suzanne F. Bradley, MD (1) for the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology Long-Term Care Special Interest Group*

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Attribution of infection to LTCF

- No evidence of an incubating infection at the time of admission to the facility
 - Basis of clinical documentation of appropriate signs and symptoms and not solely on screening microbiologic data
- Onset of clinical manifestation occurs > 2 calendar days after admission.

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Attribution of infection to LTCF

- All symptoms must be new or acutely worse
- Non-infectious causes of signs and symptoms should always be considered prior to diagnosis
- Identification of an infection should not be based on a single piece of evidence
 - Clinical, microbiologic, radiologic
- Diagnosis by physician insufficient (based on definition)

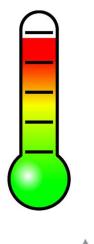


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Constitutional Requirements

Fever:

- A single oral temperature >37.8°C
 [100°F], OR
- Repeated oral temperatures >37.2°C [99°F]; rectal temperature >37.5° (99.5°F) OR
- >1.1°C [2°F] over baseline from a temperature taken at any site



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Constitutional Requirements

Leukocytosis

 Neutrophilia > 14000 WBC/mm³

OR

• Left shift (>6% bands or ≥1500 bands/mm³)



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Constitutional Requirements

Acute Change in Mental Status from Baseline

 Based on Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) criteria available in MDS

Change	Criteria	
Acute Onset	Evidence of acute change in mental status from resident baseline	е
Fluctuating	Behavior fluctuating (e.g., coming and going or changing in several during assessment)	rity
Inattention	Resident has difficulty focusing attention (e.g., unable to keep tr discussion or easily distracted	ack of
Disorganized Thinking	Resident's thinking is incoherent (e.g., rambling conversation, ur flow of ideas)	nclear Either
Altered level of consciousness	Resident's level of consciousness is described as different from baseline (e.g., hyperalert, sleepy, drowsy, difficult arouse, nonresponsive)	/or

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Constitutional Requirements

Acute Functional Decline

- New 3-point increase in total ADL score (0-28) from baseline based on 7 ADLs {0 = independent; 4 = total dependence}
 - 1. Bed mobility
 - 2. Transfer
 - 3. Locomotion within LTCF
 - 4. Dressing
 - 5. Toilet use
 - 6. Personal hygiene
 - 7. Eating

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Site Specific Definitions



Knowledge Checks



Respiratory Tract Infections

Criteria Comments

A. Common cold syndrome/pharyngitis

At least two criteria present

- 1. Runny nose or sneezing
- 2. Stuffy nose (i.e., congestion)
- Sore throat or hoarseness or difficulty swallowing
- 4. Dry cough
- 5. Swollen or tender glands in neck

Fever may or may not be present. Symptoms must be new, and not attributable to allergies

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Respiratory Tract Infections

Criteria Comme

B. <u>Influenza-like Illness</u>

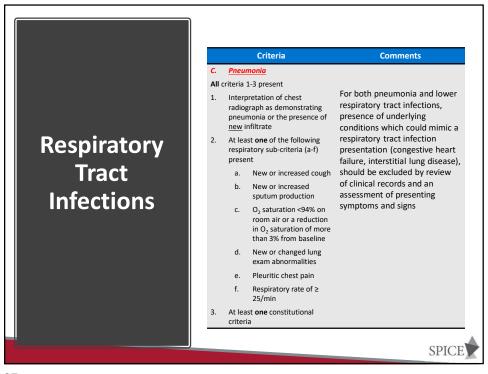
Both criteria 1 and 2 present

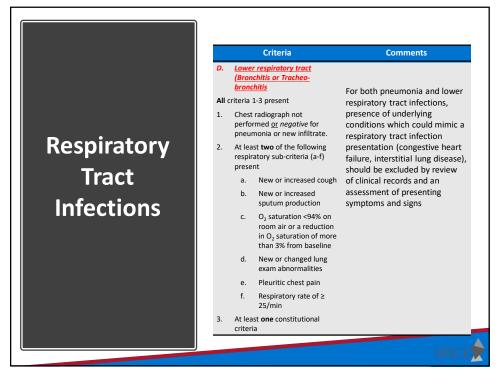
- Fever
- 2. At least **three** of the following symptom sub-criteria (a-f) present
 - a. Chills
 - b. New headache or eye pain
 - c. Myalgias or body aches
 - d. Malaise or loss of appetite
 - e. Sore throat
 - f. New or increased dry cough

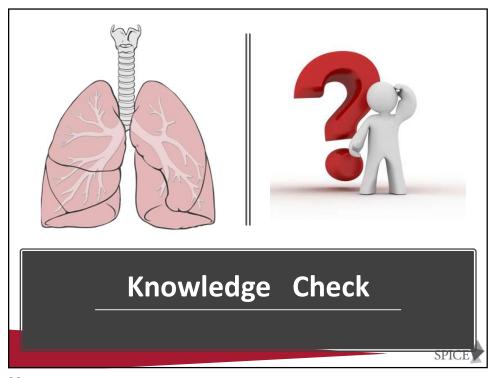
If criteria for influenza-like illness and another upper or lower respiratory tract infection are met at the same time, only the diagnosis of influenza-like illness should be used

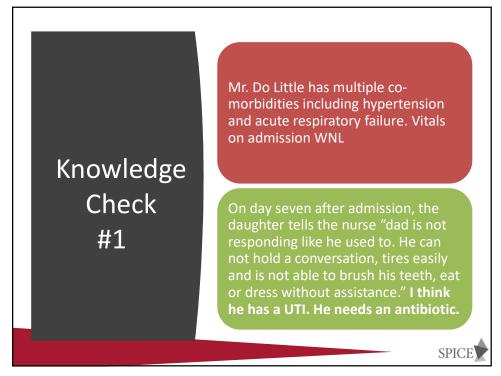
Due to increasing uncertainty surrounding the timing of the start of influenza season, the peak of influenza activity and the length of the season, 'seasonality' is no longer part of the criteria to define influenza-like illness

ILE)









Physical exam: • Temp 100.7, pulse 107, RR 26 and 02 sat 93% • Ronchi noted on auscultation of the chest the resident is confused MD notified and orders urine and chest x-ray Results: • Culture + E. coli 10² cfu/ml and • chest x-ray: no new findings

Does Mr. Do Little have an infection?

- Yes
- No
- Have no idea

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What surveillance criteria are met?

- A. Common Cold
- B. Pneumonia
- C. Urinary tract infection
- D. Lower respiratory track

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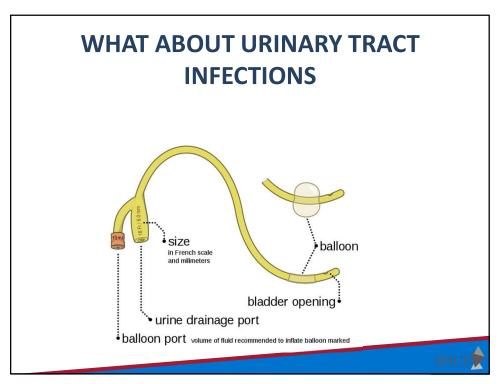
If Yes, is it facility or community associated?

- Facility
- Community

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Respiratory Tract Infections Criteria Comments D. Lower respiratory tract (Bronchitis or Tracheo**bronchitis** All criteria 1-3 present For both pneumonia and lower respiratory tract infections, presence of underlying Chest radiograph not performed or negative conditions which could mimic a respiratory for pneumonia or new infiltrate. tract infection presentation (congestive heart 2. At least two of the following respiratory subfailure, interstitial lung disease), should be criteria (a-f) present excluded by review of clinical records and an a. New or increased cough assessment of presenting symptoms and b. New or increased sputum production c. O_2 saturation <94% on room air or a reduction in O2 saturation of more than 3% from baseline d. New or changed lung exam abnormalities e. Pleuritic chest pain f. Respiratory rate of ≥ 25/min At least one constitutional criteria

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What do the Guidelines Say?

- Insert catheters only for appropriate indications
- Avoid use of urinary catheters in patients and nursing home residents for management of incontinence
- Keep the catheter and collecting tube free from kinking
- Empty the drainage bag regularly using a separate, clean collecting container for each resident (even in semi-private rooms)
- Changing indwelling catheters or drainage bags at routine, fixed intervals is not recommended. It is suggested to change catheters and drainage bags based on clinical indications such as infection, obstruction, or when the closed system has been compromised

https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/cauti/index.html



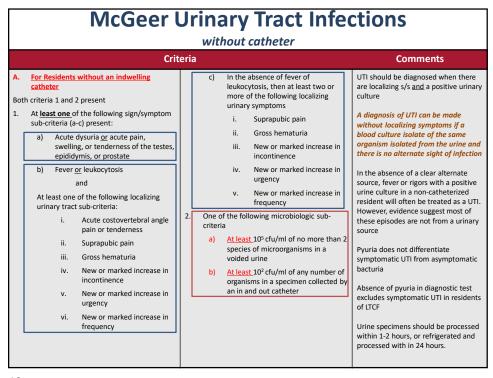
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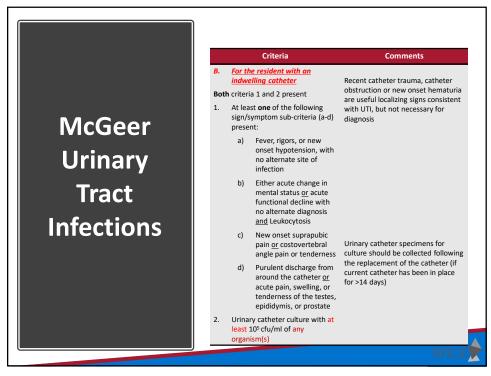
Urinary Specimens: What do the Guidelines Say?

- Specimens collected through the catheter present for more than a few days reflect biofilm microbiology.
- For residents with <u>chronic indwelling catheters</u> (greater than 14 <u>days</u>) and symptomatic infection, changing the catheter immediately prior to instituting antimicrobial therapy allows collection of a bladder specimen, which is a more accurate reflection of infecting organisms.
- Urinary catheters coated with antimicrobial materials have the potential to decrease UTIs but have not been studied in the LTCF setting.

SHEA/APIC Guideline: Infection prevention and control in the long-term care facility Philip W. Smith, MD, Gail Bennett, RN, MSN, CICb Suzanne Bradley, MD, Paul Drinka, MD, Ebbing Lautenbach, MD, James Marx, RN, MS, CIC, Lona Mody, MD, Lindsay Nicolle, MD and Kurt Stevenson, MD July 2008









NHSN Notes

- Indwelling urinary catheter should be in place for a minimum of 2 calendar days before infection onset (day 1 = day of insertion)
- Indwelling urinary catheter: a drainage tube that is inserted into the urinary bladder through the urethra, is left in place and is connected to a closed collection system, also called a foley catheter. Indwelling urinary catheters do not include straight in-and-out catheters or suprapubic catheters (these would be captures as SUTIs, not CA-SUTIs)
- Indwelling catheters which have been in place for > 14 days should be changed prior to specimen collection but failure to change catheter does not exclude a UTI for surveillance purposes



NHSN Key Reminders

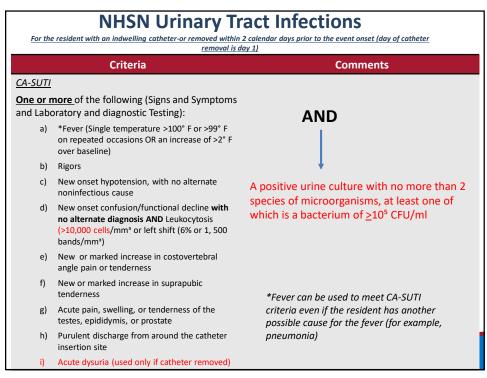
- 1. "Mixed flora" is not available in the pathogen list within NHSN. Therefore, it cannot be reported as a pathogen to meet the NHSN UTI criteria. Additionally, "mixed flora" often represents contamination and likely represents presence of multiple organisms in culture (specifically, at least two organisms).
- 2. Yeast and other microorganisms, which are not bacteria, are not acceptable UTI pathogens, and therefore, cannot be used to meet NHSN UTI criteria without the presence of a qualifying bacterium.
- 3. To remove the subjectivity about whether a fever is attributable to a UTI event, the presence of a fever, even if due to another cause (for example, pneumonia), must still be counted as a criterion when determining if the NHSN UTI definition is met.





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Must meet Criteria 1,2 OR 3 Criteria 1 Criteria 2 Criteria 3 Either of the following: One of the following Two or more of the true: 1. Fever: (Single temperature following (New and/or 1. Acute dysuria >100° F or >99° F on marked increase): repeated occasions (more 2. Acute pain, swelling **NHSN Urinary** than once) OR an increase of 1. Costovertebral or tenderness of >2° F over baseline angle pain or the testes. epididymis or Leukocvtosis: >10.000 tenderness **Tract** prostate cells/mm³ or left shift (6% or 2. Incontinence 1, 500 bands/mm³ **Infections** AND 3. Urinary urgency AND A positive urine culture 4. Urinary frequency One or more of the following (New or Marked increase): For Residents with no more than 2 5. Suprapubic pecies of tenderness icroorganisms, at Costovertebral angle pain or without an 6. Visible (gross) east one of which is a tenderness oacterium of ≥10⁵ hematuria indwelling Suprapubic tenderness Visible (Gross) hematuria A positive urine culture catheter Incontinence with no more than 2 Urgency Frequency microorganisms, at least one of which is a AND bacterium of $\geq 10^5$ positive urine culture with no CFU/ml ore than 2 species of nicroorganisms, at least one of ich is a bacterium of ≥10⁵ Comments: Fever can be used to meet SUTI criteria even if the resident has another



Asymptomatic Bacteremic Urinary Tract Infection (ABUTI)

Resident with or without an indwelling urinary catheter:

 No qualifying fever or signs or symptoms (specifically no urinary urgency, urinary frequency, acute dysuria, suprapubic tenderness, or costovertebral angle pain or tenderness). If no catheter is in place, fever alone would not exclude ABUTI if other criteria are met

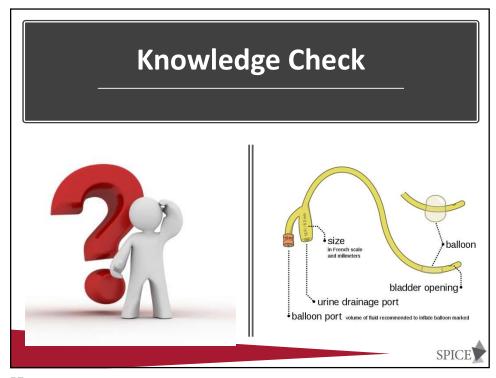
AND

2. A positive urine culture with no more than 2-species of microorganisms, at least one of which is a bacterium of $\geq 10^5$ CFU/ml

<u>AND</u>

3. A positive blood culture with at least 1 matching bacteria to the urine culture





Knowledge Check #1



1 Mar.

Mrs. Ross is a resident in your facility, admitted on February 1st. An indwelling urinary catheter was inserted on March 1st.



5 Mar.

On March 5, the nurse practitioner documented that Mrs. Ross complained of suprapubic pain.



6 Mar.

The following day, on March 6, a specimen collected from the Foley catheter was sent to the lab and subsequently tested positive for greater than 100,000 CFU/ml of E. coli and 100,000 CFU/ml of Candida



Does Mr. Ross have a UTI? A. Yes B. No

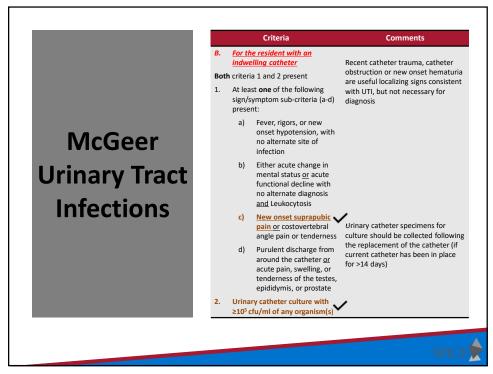
If Yes, is it catheter associate?

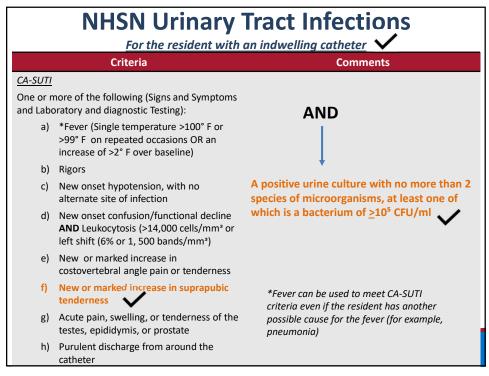
A. No

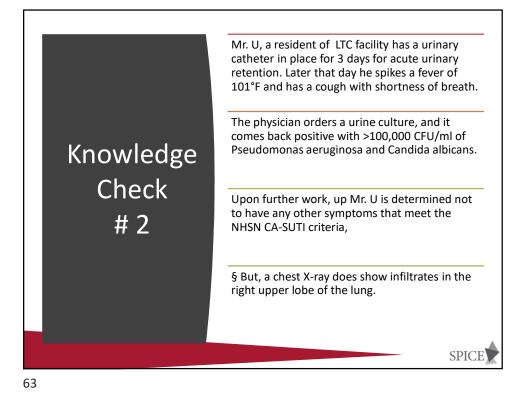
B. Yes

What criteria are met?

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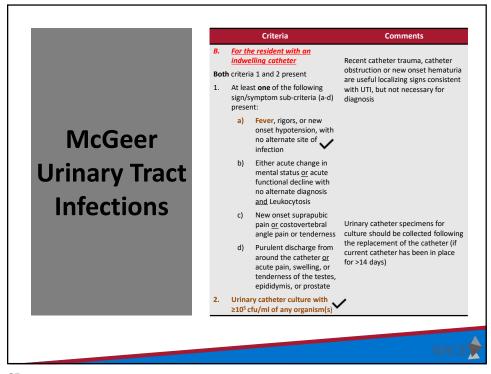
Does Mr. U have an infection?

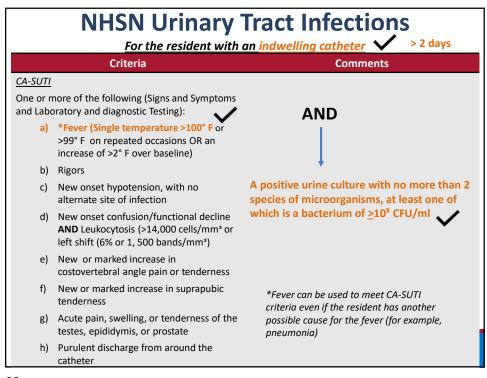
- A. Yes
- B. No

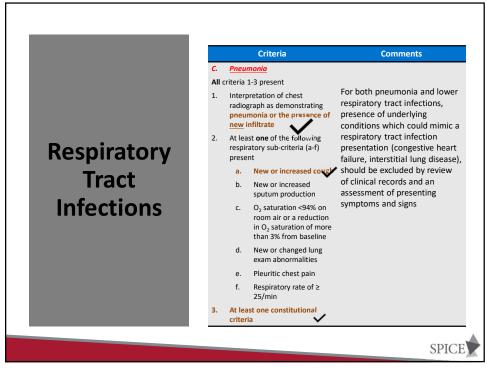
What type of infection does Mr. U have?

- 1. Pneumonia
- 2. Catheter Associated UTI
- 3. UTI but no catheter









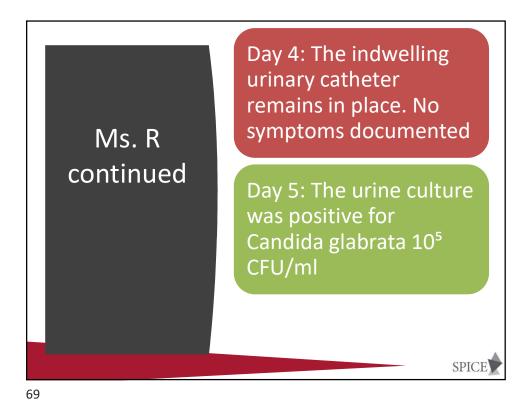
Knowledge Check #3

Day 1: Ms. R had an indwelling urinary catheter inserted for a bladder outlet obstruction

Day 2: The indwelling urinary catheter remains in place

Day 3: The resident's indwelling urinary catheter remains in place. The resident had a single oral temp of 100.2°F. A urine culture was collected from the catheter





Does Ms. R have an infection?

A. Yes

B. No

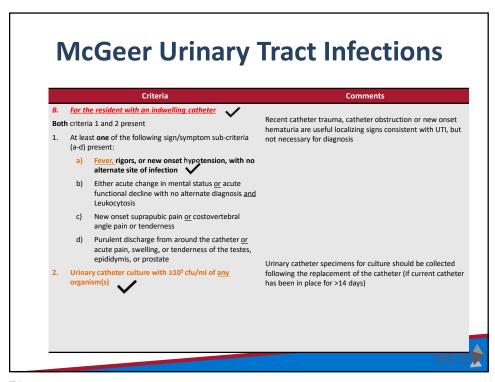
What type of infection does Ms. R have?

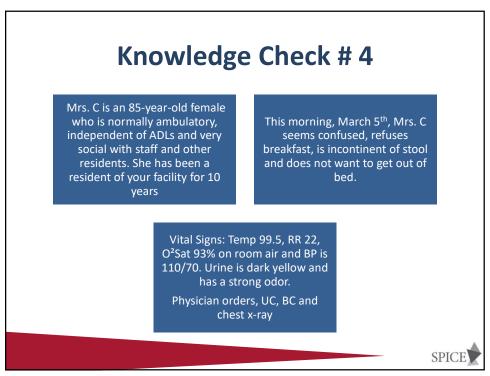
- 1. Catheter Associated UTI
- 2. UTI but no catheter

Which definition is met?

- 1. NHSN
- 2. McGeer
- 3. Both







Knowledge Check #4

Diagnostic test are completed, and results are as follows:

UC positive for >10⁵ cfu/ml of klebsiella pneumonia and > 10² candida albicans

Chest x-ray negative for infiltrate

BC + for *Klebsiella pneumonia*

What Surveillance Definition Does Mrs. C meet?

- 1. Lower respiratory tract
- 2. Gastroenteritis
- 3. Urinary tract infection
- 4. Bloodstream infection
- 5. Asymptomatic Bacteremic Urinary Tract Infection



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Asymptomatic Bacteremic Urinary Tract Infection (ABUTI)

Resident with or without an indwelling urinary catheter:

 No qualifying fever or signs or symptoms (specifically no urinary urgency, urinary frequency, acute dysuria, suprapubic tenderness, or costovertebral angle pain or tenderness). If no catheter is in place, fever alone would not exclude ABUTI if other criteria are met

AND

2. A positive urine culture with no more than 2-species of microorganisms, at least one of which is a bacterium of $\geq 10^5$ CFU/ml

AND

3. A positive blood culture with at least 1 matching bacteria to the urine culture





Skin, Soft Tissue and Mucosal Infections

Criteria Comments

A. Cellulitis/soft tissue/wound infection

At least **one** of the following criteria is present

- 1. Pus present at a wound, skin, or soft tissue site
- 2. New or increasing presence of at least **four** of the following sign/symptom sub-criteria
 - a) Heat at affected site
 - b) Redness at affected site
 - c) Swelling at affected site
 - d) Tenderness or pain at affected site
 - e) Serous drainage at affected site
 - f) One constitutional criteria

More than one resident with streptococcal skin infection from the same serogroup (e.g., A, B, C, G) in a LTCF may suggest an outbreak

For wound infections related to surgical procedures: LTCF should use the CDC's NHSN surgical site infection criteria and report these infections back to the institution performing the original surgery

Presence of organisms cultured from the surface (e.g., superficial swab culture) of a wound is not enough evidence that the wound is infected



Skin, Soft Tissue and Mucosal Infections

Criteria

B. Scabies

Both criteria 1 and 2 present

- 1. A maculopapular and/or itching rash
- 2. At least **one** of the following sub-criteria:
 - a) Physician diagnosis
 - b) Laboratory confirmation (scrapping or biopsy)
 - c) Epidemiologic linkage to a case of scabies with laboratory confirmation

Care must be taken to rule out rashes due to skin irritation, allergic reactions, eczema, and other non-

An epidemiologic linkage to a case can be considered if there is evidence of geographic proximity in the facility, temporal relationship to the onset of symptoms, or evidence of a common source of exposure (i.e., shared caregiver).

infectious skin conditions



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Skin, Soft Tissue and Mucosal **Infections**

Criteria

C. Fungal oral/perioral and skin infections

Oral candidiasis:

Both criteria 1 and 2 present:

- 1. Presence of raised white patches on inflamed mucosa, or plaques on oral mucosa

Mucocutaneous candida infections are usually due to underlying clinical conditions such as poorly controlled diabetes or severe immunosuppression. Although not transmissible infections in the healthcare setting, they can be a marker for

increased antibiotic exposure

Medical or dental provider diagnosis

Fungal skin Infection:

Both criteria 1 and 2 present:

- 1. Characteristic rash or lesion
- 2. Either a medical provider diagnosis or laboratory confirmed fungal pathogen from scrapping or biopsy

Dermatophytes have been known to cause occasional infections, and rare outbreaks, in the LTC setting.



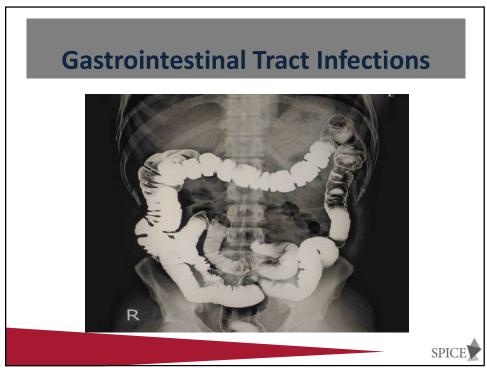
Skin, Soft Tissue and Mucosal Infections

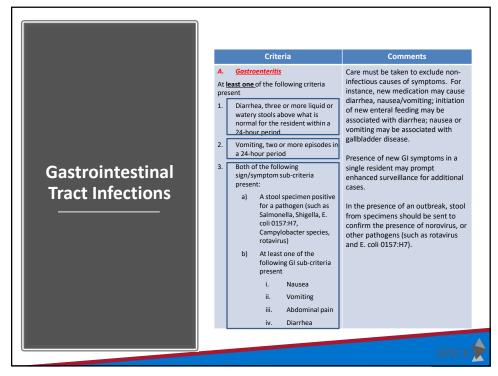
Criteria Reactivation of old herpes simplex ("cold sores") or D. Herpes viral skin infections herpes zoster ("shingles") is not considered a Herpes simplex infection healthcare-associated infection **Both** criteria 1 and 2 present: 1. A vesicular rash Primary herpes viral skin infections are very uncommon in LTCF, except in pediatric populations 2. Either physician diagnosis or laboratory where it should be considered healthcareconfirmation associated. Herpes zoster infection Both criteria 1 and 2 present: 1. A vesicular rash 2. Either physician diagnosis or laboratory confirmation

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Skin, Soft Tissue and Mucosal Infections

Conjunctivitis At least one of the following criteria present: 1. Pus appearing from one or both eyes, present for at least 24 hours 2. New or increasing conjunctival erythema, with or without itching. 3. New or increased conjunctival pain, present for at least 24 hours.





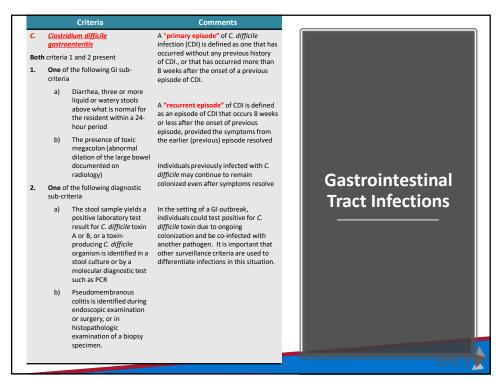
Gastrointestinal Tract Infections Criteria **Comments** B. Norovirus gastroenteritis In the absence of laboratory confirmation, an outbreak (2 or more cases occurring in a LTCF) of Both criteria 1 and 2 present acute gastroenteritis due to norovirus infection in 1. At least one of the following GI sub-criteria a LTCF may be assumed to be present if all of the a) Diarrhea, three or more liquid or watery following criteria are present ("Kaplan criteria") stools above what is normal for the Vomiting in more than half of affected persons resident within a 24-hour period A mean (or median) incubation period of 24-Vomiting, two or more episodes in a 24-48 hours hour period A mean (or median) duration of illness of 12-2. A stool specimen positive for detection of 60 hours norovirus either by electron microscopy, No bacterial pathogen is identified in stool enzyme immune assay, or by a molecular

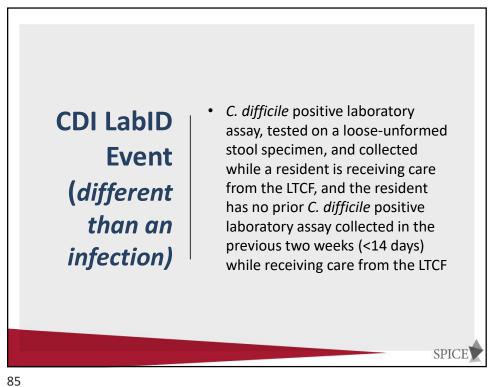
culture.

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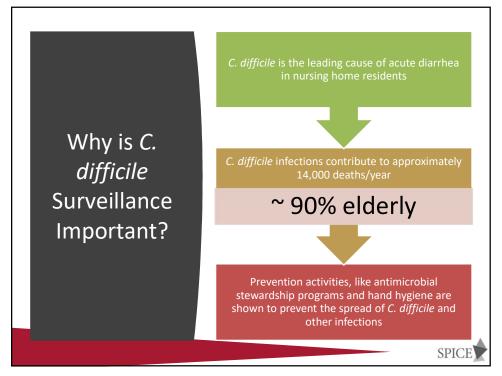
diagnostic test such as polymerase chain

reaction (PCR).

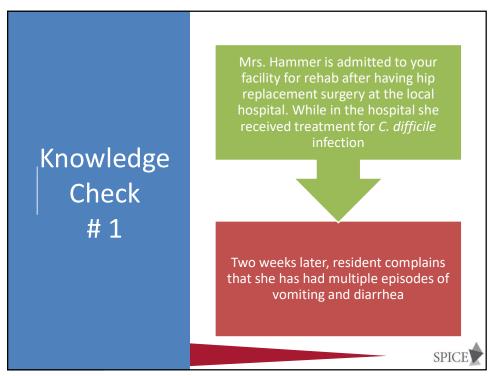


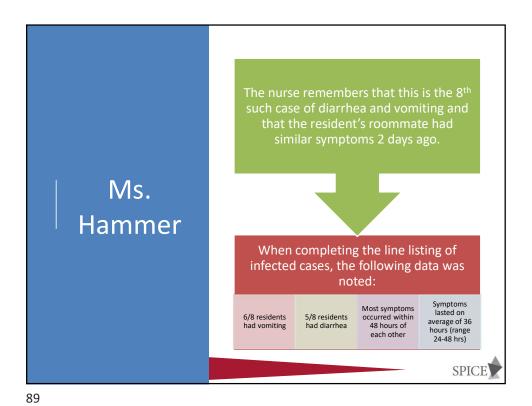


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What type of infection does Ms.

Hammer have?

A. C. difficile

B. Gastroenteritis

C. Norovirus

D. Just an upset stomach

SPICE

Gastrointestinal Tract Infections

Criteria

Comments

B. Norovirus gastroenteritis

Both criteria 1 and 2 present

- 1. At least one of the following GI sub-criteria
 - a) Diarrhea, three or more liquid or watery stools above what is normal for the resident within a 24 hour period
 - b) Vomiting, two or more episodes in a 24 hour period
- A stool specimen positive for detection of norovirus either by electron microscopy, enzyme immune assay, or by a molecular diagnostic test such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

In the absence of laboratory confirmation, an outbreak (2 or more cases occurring in a LTCF) of acute gastroenteritis due to norovirus infection in a LTCF may be assumed to be present if **all** of the following criteria are present ("Kaplan criteria")

- a) Vomiting in more than half of affected persons
- b) A mean (or median) incubation period of 24-48 hours
- c) A mean (or median) duration of illness of 12-60 hours
- d) No bacterial pathogen is identified in stool culture.



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Gastrointestinal Tract Infections

Criteria

Comments

A. <u>Gastroenteritis</u>

At least one of the following criteria present

- Diarrhea, three or more liquid or watery stools above what is normal for the resident within a 24hour period
- 2. Vomiting, two or more episodes in a 24-hour period
- **3. Both** of the following sign/symptom sub-criteria present:
 - a) A stool specimen positive for a pathogen (such as Salmonella, Shigella, E. coli 0157:H7, Campylobacter species, rotavirus)
 - b) At least **one** of the following GI sub-criteria present
 - i. Nausea
 - ii. Vomiting
 - iii. Abdominal pain
 - v. Diarrhea

Care must be taken to exclude non-infectious causes of symptoms. For instance, new medication may cause diarrhea, nausea/vomiting; initiation of new enteral feeding may be associated with diarrhea; nausea or vomiting may be associated with gallbladder disease.

Presence of new GI symptoms in a single resident may prompt enhanced surveillance for additional cases.

In the presence of an outbreak, stool from specimens should be sent to confirm the presence of norovirus, or other pathogens (such as rotavirus and *E. coli* 0157:H7).

