

HCS SS SCS SB 1279 -- MISSOURI HOSPITAL INFECTION CONTROL ACT

This bill creates the Missouri Nosocomial Infection Control Act of 2004. The bill:

- (1) Requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to include in its list of reported communicable and infectious diseases methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus and vancomycin-resistant enterococcus;
- (2) Authorizes the department to collect, analyze, and disclose nosocomial data obtained from hospital patient medical records. Currently, the department obtains this information to conduct epidemiological studies;
- (3) Creates various definitions, including "nosocomial infection," "nosocomial infection incidence rate," "antibiogram," and "other facility";
- (4) Requires laboratories performing culture and sensitivity testing on humans in Missouri to submit data on health care associated infections to the department. The data may include antibiograms. No later than July 1, 2005, the data must include the number of patients by hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or other facility with methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus or vancomycin-resistant enterococcus;
- (5) Requires the Infection Control Advisory Panel to develop a recommended plan to use laboratory and health care provider data as a means to enhance the ability of health care providers and the department to track the incidence and distribution of preventable infections and monitor the trends in the development of antibiotic-resistant microbes;
- (6) Requires the department to collect data on the required nosocomial infection incidence rates from hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and other facilities which are necessary to generate the required reports;
- (7) Requires the department to develop rules governing the collection, risk adjustment, and reporting of nosocomial infection incidence rates and the types of specified medical procedures to be monitored by July 1, 2005;
- (8) Requires the department to use data collection methodologies established by the National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance System of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- (9) Requires the advisory panel to recommend to the department the appropriateness of implementing all or part of the nosocomial

infection data collection and public reporting requirements;

(10) Allows the department to implement or not implement the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Nosocomial Infection System or an alternative infection control system. Non-participating hospitals and medical facilities are still required to adhere to the provisions of the bill;

(11) Exempts physician's offices from reporting and disclosing infection incidence rates;

(12) Requires the department, in consultation with the advisory panel, to submit quarterly reports of nosocomial infections to the public. The department is also required to post the reports on their web site beginning December 31, 2006. The reports will also be distributed on an annual basis to the Governor and the General Assembly;

(13) Requires the quarterly reports to reveal risk-adjusted nosocomial infection incidence rate data for class I surgical site infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia, central-line bloodstream infections, and other infections;

(14) Requires information collected on infections to be subject to confidentiality protections. However, the information can be provided in provider-specific form to the appropriate facility and professional licensing authorities for the purpose of licensing hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers;

(15) Requires the department to collect and publish nosocomial infection incidence rates if the Hospital Industry Data Institute fails to do so by July 31, 2008;

(16) Requires hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and other facilities to have procedures for monitoring and enforcing compliance with infection control regulations;

(17) Gives infection control officers the authority to require hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to terminate a practice which falls outside accepted medical practices for preventing nosocomial infections;

(18) Prohibits hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers from taking retaliatory actions against infection control officers and other employees who discuss any aspect of care with an agent of the department concerning potential hospital infection issues or complaints;

(19) Requires the department to review and update standards for an infection control program by July 1, 2005, and specifies the

subject areas for the standards;

(20) Gives the department access to all data and information held by hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and other medical facilities relating to their infection control practices. Failure to comply with the data disclosure requirements can be grounds for partial or full licensure suspension or revocation. Facilities that willfully impede access to the information will be subject to a suspension of all or a portion of their state funding;

(21) Creates the Infection Control Advisory Panel and specifies the composition of the panel; and

(22) Prohibits information disclosed by the public for the purpose of compliance with the bill from being used to establish a standard of care in a private civil suit.