EDITED BY ROBERT A. WEINSTEIN, MD

SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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SHEA/CDC/AHA Hospital Epidemiology Training Course

Are you an infectious disease fellow who needs to learn more about hosptial epidemiology? Are you an infectious disease program director who would like to respond to ACGME suggestions for increased infection control education of your trainees? Are you a newly appointed hospital infection control committee chair? Or are you an experienced practitioner in search of revitalization?

If you fit into any of these categories, then do we have a deal for you-the SHEA/CDC/AHA Hospital Epidemiology Training Course. Organized and taught by representatives from the most influential infection control organizations in the country, this course will be offered twice in 1992: September 17-20 in Atlanta, Georgia, and November 19-22 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

For more information, contact Gina Pugliese at the American Hospital Association. Telephone (312) 280-6404; FAX (312) 280-6012.

Information about scholarships from Merck, Sharp, & Dohme for infectious disease fellows is included in this issue and appears on the next page.

More on Exposure-Prone Procedures

By now you probably have seen a copy of Dr. William Roper's June 18 letter to state health officers giving further clarification on how to prevent transmission of bloodborne pathogens from healthcare workers to patients.

In his letter, Dr. Roper notes that it has not been possible to create lists of procedures designated "exposure-prone"-a concept that appeared central to implementing the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC's) recommendations for managing HIV-infected healthcare workers, as published July 12, 1991, in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Dr. Roper further reports that the CDC will not be revising the July 12 guideline, which therefore will continue to serve as the basis for development of state-specific guidelines, as required by federal law passed in October 1991. However, Dr. Roper notes that states will have some flexibility and that the CDC's review of state guidelines "will give appropriate consideration to those states that decide that exposure-prone invasive procedures are best determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the specific procedure as well as the skill, technique, and possible impairment of the infected healthcare worker." It appears that this interpretation can give needed leeway to states and hospitals.

SHEA Practical Guide

Several members of SHEA will be developing a practical guide for hospital epidemiologists. They would like to cover such issues as negotiations with hospital administrators, dealing with powerful practice groups, and other practical problems for hospital epidemiologists. They also plan to review legal and ethical aspects of hospital epidemiology, SHEA members who have suggestions or want to contribute to this process, especially based on their own experiences, should contact Loreen A. Herwaldt, MD, Associate Hospital Epidemiologist, The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, C41 GH, Iowa City, IA 52245.

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