



Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Health Facility Acquired Infections Disclosure Initiative Semi-Annual Bulletin: Volume 2, No. 2, November 2009 Herniorrhaphy Procedures in Colorado Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Introduction

This report was written to fulfill the requirements set forth in Colorado Revised Statute title 25, article 3, part 6, the Hospital-Acquired Infections Disclosure Act. The Act requires hospitals, hospital units, ambulatory surgery centers and dialysis treatment centers to report health facility acquired infections data as a condition of their state licensure. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (the department) is the lead state agency administering the initiative. The department is required to produce semi-annual bulletins disclosing the results of the data collected.

This bulletin serves as the second semi-annual bulletin for 2009 and focuses on herniorrhaphy procedures in Colorado Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs). The table in this bulletin shows the results of data collected in each ASC that performs herniorrhaphies. The reporting period is from October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009.

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There are forty Colorado ASCs that provide herniorrhaphy procedures meeting the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) definition. This bulletin includes data submitted from thirty-five of the ASCs; five of the ASCs did not perform any herniorrhaphies during this reporting period. 2008 data was submitted through the NHSN for twenty-three of the ASCs in this report; twelve of the ASCs manually submitted their data to the department. One facility submitted their 2009 data to the department manually. The department uses NHSN to access the data and format the information for presentation to the general public. The department depends on accurate information from reporting facilities. The department does not yet perform data validation or audit facilities to ensure the data are complete. This report should be used as one of many

quality evaluation tools and cannot, on its own, paint a complete picture of healthcare in Colorado.

Herniorrhaphy Procedures

An NHSN operative procedure is a procedure 1) that is performed on a patient who is an inpatient or an outpatient; and 2) takes place during an operation (defined as a single trip to the operating room (OR) where a surgeon makes at least one incision through the skin or mucous membrane, including laparoscopic approach, and closes the incision before the patient leaves the OR.

Herniorrhaphies are one of the NHSN operative procedures the Colorado Health Facility Acquired Infections Advisory Committee (CHFAIAC) recommended as a reporting requirement for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to report. A brief description of the types of operations contained in this NHSN operative procedure category include repair of an inguinal, femoral, umbilical, or anterior abdominal wall hernia. Repair of a diaphragmatic or hiatal hernia or hernias at other body sites do not meet NHSN operative procedure definition and are not reported.

Surgical Site Infections

Surgical site infections (SSIs) are infections that are directly related to an operative procedure. Facilities providing certain cardiac, orthopedic, abdominal and vaginal procedures are required to report these procedures and any surgical site infection associated with the procedure to the NHSN. Herniorrhaphies fall under the abdominal procedure category.

The decision to report on specific SSI types was evidence-based. Some of the reasons to target these types of surgeries are they are:

- High volume procedures;
- Expensive for healthcare payers; and

- Performed at a number of health facilities in Colorado – often allowing consumers to choose where to receive treatment.

Surgical site infection rates are adjusted to take into account differences in patient risk factors for infection due to length of surgery, type of surgical wound and the patient’s physical condition. Surgical procedures selected for reporting are performed in a variety of facilities, and tend to be associated with health facility acquired infections.

Most SSIs from these types of surgeries can:

- Be prevented by following established prevention techniques;
- Easily be detected and reported accurately; and
- Have a devastating impact on the patient’s quality of life.

This bulletin will focus on herniorrhaphy procedures in ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs). An ASC is a health care facility that specializes in providing surgery in an outpatient setting. Usually, procedures performed in ASCs can be considered procedures that are more intensive than those done in the average doctor's office but not so intensive as to require a hospital stay.

Results

The table below shows data submitted by thirty-five of the Colorado Ambulatory Surgery Centers who performed herniorrhaphies during this reporting period. The table contains data from October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009.

The table lists the ASCs name, the city where the facility is located, the number of herniorrhaphy procedures provided, and the website of the ASC. For this bulletin, the department and the Colorado Health Facility Acquired Infections Advisory Committee decided not to report infections data by facility for three reasons.

1. The legislation requires that the department report risk-adjusted data consistent with the standards of the National Health Safety Network (NHSN). Risk-adjusted data was not available for twelve of the ASCs in this bulletin due to manual submission of their data to the department. Facilities can only enter or edit data in NHSN as far back as January 1 of the year they enrolled in NHSN. The enrollment process has been difficult and time consuming for some of the healthcare facilities and they were not able to meet the 2008 enrollment deadline.
2. The department reviewed the surgical site infections data for herniorrhaphies and found only six infections for the 2,599 procedures reported. The infections were reported by multiple facilities.
3. In order to have a comparison for each ambulatory surgical center’s infection rate, the department

calculated the combined state rate for SSIs in herniorrhaphies among ASCs. Each facility’s rate was compared to the state rate to determine if it was statistically different. The department did not find that any were statistically different. In other words, not one facility, even those that reported infections, had a rate that was statistically different from the state rate. This statistical significance test shows the likelihood that the result did not happen by chance alone.

Cautions

There are some cautions consumers should be aware of when interpreting the data in this report. Infections are not the only adverse event that may happen to a consumer, it is important to weigh all factors in judging the quality of healthcare. Consumers should always consult with their doctor, healthcare facility, health insurance carrier, family and friends before deciding where to receive care. Consumers should consider the experience of the facility, staff and other quality of care indicators in addition to the data below.

Table 1: Herniorrhaphy procedures in Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Herniorrhaphy Procedures in Ambulatory Surgical Centers			
Reporting Period: October 1, 2008-March 31, 2009			
Health Facility	Location	Procedure Count	Facility Website
Aberdeen Ambulatory Surgical Center	Pueblo	3	No website
Arkansas Valley Surgery Center	Canon City	28	No website
ASC Durango at Mercy Medical Center*	Durango	34	http://www.ascdurango.org/
Audubon Ambulatory Surgery Center	Colorado Springs	71	http://www.audubonsurgerycenter.com/
Audubon Ambulatory Surgery Center at St. Francis	Colorado Springs	215	http://www.audubonsurgerycenter.com/
Aurora Surgery Center	Aurora	31	http://www.aurorasurgerycenter.com/
Black Canyon Surgical Center	Montrose	28	http://www.blackcanyonsurgicalcenter.com/
Boulder Medical Center	Boulder	4	http://www.bouldermedicalcenter.com/

Herniorrhaphy Procedures in Ambulatory Surgical Centers			
Reporting Period: October 1, 2008-March 31, 2009			
Health Facility	Location	Procedure Count	Facility Website
Centrum Surgical Center	Greenwood Village	6	http://www.centrumsurgicalcenter.com/
Clear Creek Surgery Center*	Wheat Ridge	126	http://clearcreeksurgery.com/
Colorado Springs Surgery Center	Colorado Springs	8	http://www.coloradospringssurgerycenter.com/
Crown Point Surgery Center*	Parker	58	No website
Denver Midtown Surgery Center	Denver	127	http://www.midtownsurgicalcenter.com/
Denver West Surgery Center*	Golden	2	http://www.denverwestsurgerycenter.net/
First Choice Outpatient Surgery Center at Community Hospital	Grand Junction	69	http://www.yourcommunityhospital.com/outpatientsurgery.cfm
Grand Valley Surgical Center	Grand Junction	116	http://www.grandvalleysurgicalcenter.com/
Harmony Ambulatory Surgery Center	Ft. Collins	226	http://www.harmonyasc.com/
Kaiser Permanente Ambulatory Surgical Center	Denver	293	https://www.kaiserpermanente.org/
Lakewood Surgical Center	Lakewood	29	http://www.lakewoodsurgicalcenter.com/
Longmont Surgery Center	Longmont	61	http://www.longmontsurgerycenter.com/
North Colorado Surgery Center	Greeley	65	Closed August 2009
North Suburban Surgery Center	Thornton	65	http://www.northsuburbansurgery.com/
Park Ridge Surgery Center of Sky Ridge	Lone Tree	15	Closed August 2009
Parkwest Surgery Center*	Pueblo	6	No website
Peak One Surgery Center	Frisco	2	http://www.peak1asc.com/
Pueblo Surgery Center	Pueblo	4	http://www.pueblosurgery.com/

Herniorrhaphy Procedures in Ambulatory Surgical Centers			
Reporting Period: October 1, 2008-March 31, 2009			
Health Facility	Location	Procedure Count	Facility Website
Rocky Mountain Surgery Center	Englewood	225	http://rockymountainsurgery.com/
Rose Surgical Center	Denver	174	http://rosesurgicalcenter.com/
Skyline Surgery Center	Loveland	83	http://www.bannerhealth.com/
Sky Ridge Surgical Center	Lone Tree	114	http://www.skyridgesurgicalcenter.com/
Summit View Surgery Center	Littleton	144	No website
Surgery Center of Ft. Collins	Ft. Collins	9	No website
Surgery Center at Lutheran	Wheat Ridge	82	No website
Surgery Center at Printers Park	Colorado Springs	55	http://www.printersparksurg.com/
Surgical Center at Premier	Colorado Springs	21	http://www.scpremier.net/
*Began providing hernia procedures 1/1/09.			

Future Reporting

The department and its infection advisory committee have plans to conduct data validation on a sample of data submitted to the NHSN. Based on the results of the validation, Patient Safety Program staff members will develop education programs to assist healthcare staff in understanding the NHSN definitions. Since tracking infections from procedures performed in the ASC setting is different from those performed in the hospital setting, the department is developing guidelines for ASC staff to track surgical site infections for patients. Developing common guidelines will assist facilities in their healthcare-associated infections surveillance efforts and could result in more infections being reported.

Conclusion

This report shows the initial results from a new reporting system. The department and the Colorado Health Facility Acquired Infections Advisory Committee recommend users of these data not draw drastic conclusions from the limited information that is currently available. Facilities vary in the types of patients they treat, and a facility that treats a high volume of severely ill patients may have higher infection rates. It is important to note, initiatives involving new reporting systems require time to allow facilities to become

familiar with the requirements and ensure the system is used correctly. The department believes that the disclosure initiative will ultimately help Colorado health facilities identify areas for improvement and result in fewer infections in the coming years. The department and its infection advisory committee are eager to continue this initiative and are committed to providing this valuable information to Colorado healthcare consumers.

For more information, please contact the patient safety initiatives program at:

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Or view detailed information on implementing the disclosure initiative, including the first annual report by visiting the patient safety initiatives Web page at:

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hf/PatientSafety/index.html>