

Background



In modern healthcare, patients are often treated for conditions using invasive devices and procedures. Infections associated with these devices and treatment can arise. Among the most common healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs), Surgical Site Infections (SSIs), and ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP).

Because of this, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the National Action Plan to Prevent Health-Care Associated Infections: Road Map to Elimination. The action plan is a national strategy for preventing HAIs in acute care hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, end-stage renal disease facilities, and long-term care facilities, and for implementing antibiotic stewardship efforts as a means of HAI prevention.

Why is this important?



Federal investments in research to discover interventions and best practices for preventing HAIs are critical to improving the quality of healthcare in the United States. This research helps healthcare clinicians understand how infections are transmitted to patients from other patients or healthcare personnel during the delivery of care. Researchers discover which interventions or changes in practice are effective in reducing or eliminating the transmission of infections. The Department of Health and Human Services made a commitment to reducing HAIs in National Action Plan to Prevent Health Care-Associated Infections. Reducing the prevalence of preventable infections will decrease costs in the healthcare system and improve patient outcomes.

Where does SHEA stand?

SHEA advocates strongly for federal investments in research for preventing HAIs. SHEA encourages Congress to appropriate funding for the **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality** including: 1) A minimum of **\$40.2 million** dedicated research in **preventing HAIs** within the patient safety portfolio; 2) A minimum of **\$52.9 million** for **investigator-initiated research**; and 3) A minimum of **\$12 million** for **combating antibiotic resistance**.

SHEA believes the important work of the **CDC Prevention Epicenters** must continue to be funded at a level that provides for a minimum of **\$6 million per year**. SHEA strongly advocates for CDC funding to allow for new grants at the conclusion of the current grant cycle for Prevention Epicenters.

Social Media



Facebook: @SHEApreventingHAIs



Twitter: @SHEA_Epi, #HAIs #stopHAIs

Federal government created programs for the purpose of preventing the spread of HAIs



National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

AHRQs investigator-initiated research grants for HAI prevention

CDC's Prevention Epicenters Program

CDC's Modeling Infectious Diseases in Healthcare Network (MInD – Healthcare)

CDC's Safety and Healthcare Epidemiology Prevention Research Development (SHEPherD) Program

What will SHEA do next?

SHEA will maintain a sustained advocacy campaign in support of investments in preventing healthcare-associated infections.

SHEA advocates are encouraged to connect with their elected representatives and encourage them to support this important research and vote for sustained funding to protect Americans.

How can I get involved?

SHEA understands and appreciates your desire to stay informed and to get directly involved in SHEA's next steps. To receive regular updates and instructions on how to get involved, join SHEA's Grassroots Network by texting PREVENTION to 52886 or emailing grassroots@shea-online.org with the subject line "Subscribe."

Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Healthcare-associated Infections
- National Action Plan to Prevent Health Care-Associated Infections: Road Map to Elimination

Find direct links to each of these resources by going to shea-online.org. Navigate to "The Policy Resource Center" under the "Policy" tab to find this electronic fact sheet.