



July 7, 2009

## \*\*\* Media Alert \*\*\*

### A Bridge to the Future: New Mexico MRSA Collaborative Outcomes Congress to be Held in Albuquerque on July 17

*The New Mexico Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Collaborative is funded by the New Mexico Medical Review Association (NMMRA), under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and through a Patient Safety Grant awarded to the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC) from the Cardinal Health Foundation. The collaborative operates under the guidance of NMMRA, UNMHSC and an expert steering committee with representatives from the:*

*New Mexico Department of Health*

*Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology-New Mexico*

*Infectious Diseases Society of New Mexico*

*New Mexico Medical Society*

*New Mexico Hospital Association*



**What:** Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and other health care-associated infections are a major cause of morbidity, mortality and excess health care cost despite concerted infection control efforts. During the past year, 16 acute hospitals in New Mexico and New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) facilities participated in an initiative to reduce health care-associated MRSA by testing system changes aimed at effective surveillance for MRSA infection and transmission and implementing MRSA control methods. The overall goal of the collaborative was to decrease the rate of health care-associated MRSA bloodstream infections per 1,000 patient days by 40 percent in the participating facilities over 12 months. On July 17, participants will meet to share their results and learn about future efforts.

**Who:** The following facilities participated in the New Mexico MRSA collaborative:

- Cibola General Hospital
- Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center
- HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital
- Lovelace Westside Hospital
- Lovelace Women's Hospital
- Memorial Medical Center
- Miners' Colfax Medical Center
- New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute
- New Mexico Rehabilitation Center
- Presbyterian Hospital
- Roosevelt General Hospital
- San Juan Regional Medical Center
- CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center
- Turquoise Lodge
- University of New Mexico (UNM) Hospital
- Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center

The New Mexico MRSA Collaborative was guided by an expert steering committee that included representatives from UNM Health Sciences Center, New Mexico Medical Review Association (NMMRA), New Mexico Hospital Association, NMDOH, New Mexico Association of Practitioners in Infection Control (APIC-NM), the Infectious Diseases Society of New Mexico, the New Mexico Medical Society, TriCore and SED Laboratories.

**Where:** The Embassy Suites, 1000 Woodward Place NE, Sierra Room, Albuquerque

**When:** Reporters are invited to attend sessions from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (complimentary lunch served). Collaborative representatives will be available to answer questions from noon to 1:00 p.m. Presentations by collaborative participants will occur from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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**See also:** [www.nmmra.org/resources/download.php?id=1798](http://www.nmmra.org/resources/download.php?id=1798) (agenda), [www.nmmra.org/resources/download.php?id=1792](http://www.nmmra.org/resources/download.php?id=1792) (flier) and [www.nmmra.org/nmmrsa/index.php](http://www.nmmra.org/nmmrsa/index.php) (collaborative Web page)

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Additional information is available at [www.nmmra.org/nmmrsa/index.php](http://www.nmmra.org/nmmrsa/index.php).