

Hospital response to CR's questions

Rockdale Medical Center

1) Are there specific reasons that your infection rates were higher than average during the time period of Oct 2013- Sept 2014?

We are disappointed that the most recent Consumer Report lists Rockdale among the lowest ranking for infection prevention during this time period. This information only represents a small portion of our hospital's overall performance and does not reflect our most recent quality improvements and patient safety efforts. Currently, CMS Hospital Compare shows Rockdale to be consistent with national benchmarks for the categories highlighted in the Consumer Report. Additionally, we are pleased to report that newer data on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) shows that Rockdale has increased patient safety since the time period used in the Consumer Reports ranking.

2) Do you have an antibiotic stewardship program?

In 2013, Rockdale Medical Center strengthened its antibiotic stewardship program to prevent overuse of antibiotics that can lead to infections such as Clostridium difficile (C. diff). Rockdale Medical Center also participated in the Georgia Emerging Infections Program, a collaborative project led by the Georgia Department of Health (DPH), Emory University and CDC that actively monitors and researches infectious diseases and shares best practices in antibiotic stewardship.

3) Do you have a specific program on infection control?

Rockdale Medical Center has participated in several multi-hospital patient safety collaboratives, as well as programs such as the infection prevention collaborative with the Georgia Hospital Association and the Georgia Emerging Infections Program; increased infection prevention training and education for staff; and implemented numerous enhancements to hospital practices and processes, such as new cleaning tools and protocols, to prevent hospital acquired infections.

4) Have you made any changes since the period covered in the ratings?

Rockdale has implemented a number of strategies to enhance quality care and prevent infections. These include: o Daily leadership briefs to review safety and quality concerns; o Microfiber cleaning so mop heads and cleaning cloths are for one-time use and prevent cross contamination; o Interdisciplinary safety rounds between units; o Sharing of best practices at both the hospital and state level; and o Implementation of an antibiotic stewardship program to prevent overuse of antibiotics that can lead to C. diff. We are pleased that CMS Hospital Compare currently shows Rockdale to be consistent with national benchmarks for the categories highlighted in the Consumer Report, and newer data on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) shows that Rockdale has increased patient safety since the time period used in the Consumer Reports ranking.

5) Do you have any additional comments?

Rockdale Medical Center is committed to quality and patient safety. We regularly monitor our performance and explore ways to improve our processes so we can ensure all of our patients have a safe and positive experience at our hospital.