

## **Hospital response to CR's questions**

### **Fremont-Rideout Health Group**

- 1.) Are there specific reasons that your infection rates were higher than average during the time period of Oct 2013- Sept 2014?
- 2) Do you have an antibiotic stewardship program?
- 3) Do you have a specific program on infection control?
- 4) Have you made any changes since the period covered in the ratings?
- 5) Do you have any additional comments?

1.) and 4.) The information reported to the CDC between Oct 2013 – September 2014 was actually data from July 2013 – June 2014. This is an important distinction because Rideout Health undertook a significant shift in January 2014 in the way the organization managed Infection Prevention. A new experienced Director of Infection Prevention, Board Certified in Infection Control, joined the Rideout team and began analyzing, evaluating and implementing evidence based best practices to help reduce infections and improve patient safety. Our current data reflects > a 50% improvement in healthcare associated infections since the data reported in Consumer Reports. The Organization has also added two additional Infection Preventionist to further develop the Infection Prevention program and provide additional staff and patient education on Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) prevention.

2.) Rideout Hospital participates in the California Department of Public Health Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP). California is the first and remains the only state to enact antimicrobial stewardship legislation. Since 2008 California law required that general acute care hospitals develop a process for monitoring the judicious use of antibiotics and that the results are monitored by quality improvement committee(s). In September 2014, California Senate Bill 1311 was signed into law, further requiring hospitals to adopt and implement an antimicrobial stewardship policy in accordance with guidelines established by federal government and professional organizations, and to establish a physician-supervised multidisciplinary antimicrobial stewardship committee with at least

one physician or pharmacist who has undergone specific training related to stewardship.

Rideout has undertaken the requirements of the law and our team consisting of our Infectious Disease Physician, Pharmacy, Quality, Lab and Infection Control meet monthly and are actively working on our Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.

3.) Annually we prepare our Infection Control Plan for the upcoming year after an annual risk assessment and evaluation of the program from the previous year is complete. The Organization prioritizes our Infection Control Plan based on our current data and the evaluation. The Plan includes an Infection Prevention program that encompasses all aspects of Patient safety from hand hygiene to device and procedure associated infections. Just recently the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) HAI Liaison completed a C-Diff program assessment at our facility. Our CDPH Liaison met with our Director of EVS (Environmental Services), Director of Pharmacy and Lab and was impressed with our EVS cleaning program, our antimicrobial stewardship program, the significant reduction in our C-Difficile infections as well as our isolation and hand hygiene compliance. Other innovative programs have been implemented during the last two years including our Clean Hands Club which is a hand hygiene education program based on the World Health Organization's (WHO) Save Lives: Clean Your Hands campaign and the WHO 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene approach.

5.) During the last year and a half the team here at Rideout has made great strides to reduce infections and improve the care we provide to our patients. We are committed to patient safety and healthcare-associated infections are a major patient safety issue that Rideout Hospital takes very seriously. With a commitment from the Infection Prevention team, strong Leadership support and increased awareness on reducing safety risks for our patients, we believe we are making great progress and on the right path to achieving our HAI reduction goals. Our commitment is to inspire our staff to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality to the patients we serve in our community.