

Canadian Health Informatics Awards 2007 Award Recipients

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
D'INFORMATIQUE DE LA SANTÉ



Innovation in the Adoption of Health Informatics Award

The Ventilator Associated Pneumonia Surveillance System

Department of Critical Care Medicine at the Calgary Health Region



The Innovation in the Adoption of Health Informatics Awards recognizes individuals or teams that have, through innovation and commitment, successfully integrated information technologies into the health system. Criteria employed for consideration for award recipients requires that the innovative approach be for a program or project that has been successfully implemented; that while not necessarily national in scope, can be seen as having a significant impact in a region, province or territory in Canada, and that it has the characteristics enabling it to be replicated in other parts of the health care system. In addition, the program or project should demonstrate leading edge thinking and implementation in the domain area of the initiative and has a positive impact on health care delivery or outcomes.

Ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) is considered to be one of the more serious life threatening ICU complications, despite it being entirely preventable. The Ventilator Associated Pneumonia Surveillance System, developed in the Department of Critical Care Medicine at the Calgary Health Region, demonstrates an innovative example of using health informatics for the purpose of quality improvement and patient safety.

The project was completed in one year and integrates data from several hospital and departmental systems to produce key information used in the evaluation of suspected cases of VAP. Infection control practitioners have access to patient demographics, vital physiologic data, radiology and microbiology reports and case-specific antibiotic utilization to study every case. The data also enables the Department to assess the incidence of this calculation by site, time of year and by case mix.



Reza Shahpori, Critical Care Clinical Information System Manager, Department of Critical Care Medicine, Calgary Health Region (R) accepting the Award on behalf of his team from Linda Miller, COACH President-elect.

The findings drive improvement processes, and are reported to have resulted in a 75% decrease in incidents over a 2 year period. If sustained, this could potentially translate to annual savings of \$1.7 million and ensure the continued active participation of all stakeholders.

This truly significant achievement affecting both quality and financial outcomes is the reason that the VAP Surveillance System project was the recipient of the 2007 Innovation in the Adoption of Health Informatics Award.