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CONTENTS

Original Articles

- 1087** National trends in the treatment of urinary tract infections among Veterans' Affairs Community Living Center residents
Haley J. Appaneal, Aisling R. Caffrey, Vrishali V. Lopes, Christopher J. Crnich, David M. Dosa and Kerry L. LaPlante
- 1094** The association between implementation of second-tier prevention practices and CLABSI incidence: A national survey
Debby Ben-David, Azza Vaturi, Ester Solter, Elizabeth Temkin, Yehuda Carmeli, Mitchell J. Schwaber and the Israel CLABSI Prevention Working Group
- 1100** A systematic review of central-line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) diagnostic reliability and error
Emily N. Larsen, Nicole Gavin, Nicole Marsh, Claire M. Rickard, Naomi Runnegar and Joan Webster
- 1107** Prior antibiotic use and acquisition of multidrug-resistant organisms in hospitalized children: A systematic review
Meghan T. Murray, Melissa P. Beauchemin, Natalie Neu and Elaine L. Larson
- 1116** A nonclonal outbreak of vancomycin-sensitive *Enterococcus faecalis* bacteremia in a neonatal intensive care unit
Despina Kotsanas, Kenneth Tan, Carmel Scott, Britta Baade, Michaela Hui Ling Cheng, Zien Vanessa Tan, Jacqueline E. Taylor, Jason C. Kwong, Torsten Seemann, Geoffrey W. Coombs, Benjamin P. Howden and Rhonda L. Stuart
- 1123** Impact of decolonization on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* transmission and infection in a neonatal intensive care unit
Michael J. Bozzella, Lamia Soghier, Tracie Harris, Lisa Zell, Billie Lou Short and Xiaoyan Song
- 1128** Acquisition of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in the absence of antimicrobial exposure: A systematic review and meta-analysis
Erika M. C. D'Agata, Sara F. Geffert, Rebecca McTavish, Florence Wilson and Chris Cameron
- 1135** Attributable costs and length of stay of hospital-acquired *Clostridioides difficile*: A population-based matched cohort study in Alberta, Canada
Jenine R. Leal, John Conly, Robert Weaver, James Wick, Elizabeth A. Henderson, Braden Manns and Paul Ronksley
- 1144** Using data linkage methodologies to augment healthcare-associated infection surveillance data
Seungwon Lee, Paul Ronksley, John Conly, Stephanie Garies, Hude Quan, Peter Faris, Bing Li and Elizabeth Henderson

- 1151** Reduced isolation room turnover time using Lean methodology
Andrea L. Ankrum, Smriti Neogi, Molynda A. Morckel, Adam W. Wilhite, Zhaoyan Li and Joshua K. Schaffzin
- 1157** Efficacy and safety of a novel antimicrobial preoperative skin preparation
Christopher J. Crnich, Aurora E. Pop-Vicas, Thomas G. Hedberg and Trish M. Perl
- 1164** Lessons learned from a prolonged norovirus GII.P16-GII.4 Sydney 2012 variant outbreak in a long-term care facility in Portugal, 2017
Emma Sáez-López, Rodrigo Marques, Nuno Rodrigues, Mónica Oleastro, Helena Andrade, Ricardo Mexía and Rita de Sousa
- 1170** Outcomes of an electronic medical record (EMR)–driven intensive care unit (ICU)-antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) ward round: Assessing the “Five Moments of Antimicrobial Prescribing”
Misha Devchand, Andrew J. Stewardson, Karen F. Urbancic, Sharmila Khumra, Andrew A. Mahony, Steven Walker, Kent Garrett, M. Lindsay Grayson and Jason A. Trubiano

Commentary

- 1176** Measles crises in Detroit: Zero to 44, each one is one too many!
Mehr Grewal, Tapvir Singh and Teena Chopra

Concise Communication

- 1178** Inappropriate intravenous antimicrobial starts: An antimicrobial stewardship metric for hemodialysis facilities
Phillip D. Hahn, Mary Figgatt, Tiina Peritz and Susan E. Coffin
- 1181** Application of an antibiotic spectrum index in the neonatal intensive care unit
Alexandra C. Lahart, Christopher C. McPherson, Jeffrey S. Gerber, Barbara B. Warner, Brian R. Lee and Jason G. Newland
- 1184** Exploring prescriber perspectives toward nurses’ active involvement in antimicrobial stewardship: A qualitative study
William G. Greendyke, Alexandra N. Shelley, Philip Zachariah, E. Yoko Furuya and Eileen J. Carter
- 1188** Likelihood of persistent carriage of carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* on readmission in previously identified carriers
Amir Nutman, Anat Lerner, Noga Fallach, David Schwartz and Yehuda Carmeli
- 1191** Surgical site infections in outpatient surgeries: Less invasive procedures contribute substantially to the overall burden
Katherine Linsenmeyer, Westyn Branch-Elliman, Emily Kalver and Hillary J. Mull
- 1194** A comparison of the accuracy of two electronic hand hygiene monitoring systems
Michelle E. Doll, Nadia Masroor, Kaila Cooper, Trina Trimmer, Rachel Pryor, Joseph Auricchio, Jo Dee Armstrong-Novak, Michael P. Stevens and Gonzalo Bearman

Research Briefs

- 1198** A model for improving and assessing outpatient stewardship initiatives for acute respiratory infection
Joan Guzik, Pooja Kothari, Misha Sharp, Belinda Ostrowsky, Gopi Patel and the United Hospital Fund Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship Program Collaborative Team

Letters to the Editor

- 1201** Outbreak of *Serratia marcescens* bacteremia in pediatric patients epidemiologically linked to pre-filled heparin flushes
Kelly West, Sarah Janelle, Kyle Schutz, Stacey Hamilton, Kristin Mayo, Mary Kate Cichon, Ann-Christine Nyquist, Wendy M. Bamberg and Samuel R. Dominguez
- 1202** A phylogenetic study of *Elizabethkingia anophelis* bloodstream isolates obtained from inpatients at a single medical center
Rajesh Kumar Sahoo, Saubhagini Sahoo, Aradhana Das, Mahendra Gaur, Debadatta Bhanjadeo, Prasanjeeta Panda and Enketeswara Subudhi
- 1204** Impact of neutropenia on central venous catheter-related bloodstream infections in patients with hematological malignancies at the time of central venous catheter insertion: A matched-pair analysis
Daniela Tölle, Marcus Hentrich, Benedikt W. Pelzer, Pierre Kremer, Sabine Einhell, Sebastian Schulz, Boris Böll, Jens Panse, Martin Schmidt-Hieber, Daniel Teschner and Enrico Schalk
- 1206** Need for heightening awareness of congenital rubella syndrome in the United States
Aditi Mahesh Gupta and Ritu Cheema
- 1207** Emergency management of water supply pollution in a French teaching hospital
Solenn Guibourg, Elodie Moalic, Raoul Baron and Philippe Saliou
- 1209** RE: Preventability of hospital onset bacteremia and fungemia: A pilot study of potential healthcare-associated infection outcome measure, by Dantes et al (2019)
Anna M. Civitarese, Eric Ruggieri, J. Mattias Walz, Deborah Ann Mack, Stephen O. Heard, Michael Mitchell, Craig M. Lilly, Karen E. Landry and Richard T. Ellison
- 1210** Innovative methods to summarize nursing home antibiotic data
Christina B. Felsen, Grant R. Barney and Ghinwa K. Dumyati
- 1212** An antimicrobial stewardship elective for internal medicine residents
J. Patrik Hornak, Lindsay K. Sonstein and David Reynoso

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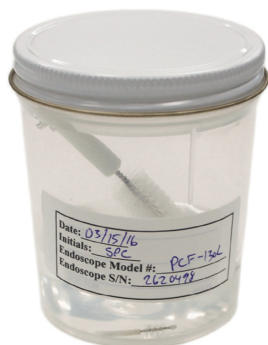
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Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology (ISSN 0899-823X) is published monthly by Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006, USA.

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Communications should be addressed to the Editor, *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006 (email: iche.managingeditor@cambridge.org). Contributors should consult the Instructions for Contributors, which is available at the journal's Web site.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006 USA.

About the cover:



Since 2015, the cover format of each volume of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* has been changed to honor one of the many professionals through out history who recognized not only how disease might be spread but also how those principles could be applied to reduce health care associated infections.

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon or Moses Maimonides (son of Maimon) was born in Cordoba, Spain, a center of intellectual and religious freedom, on March 30, circa 1135. Maimon ben Joseph, his father, was a prominent scholar, writer, and judge for Jewish religious courts. Maimonides studied with Averroes, a prominent physician-philosopher. In 1148, his family left Cordoba after a repressive dynasty, the Almohades Caliphate that ruled in Spain and North Africa during the 12th and 13th centuries, required that they either convert to Islam, emigrate, or be put to death. They wandered first to Fez, Morocco, and to Acco, Palestine, before finally settling in Old Cairo (Fostat), Egypt, circa 1165. His father and brother established a business selling precious stones, but soon after, his father died and his brother David perished in a shipwreck. Maimonides turned to medicine as a means to support both families. While only in his thirties, Maimonides was appointed as physician to the Court of the Sultan, and he served as head of the Jewish community in Cairo. During the Crusades, Maimonides' reputation as a healer was so great that King Richard the Lion hearted offered him a position as his personal physician.

Maimonides wrote many scholarly works on a variety of subjects ranging from biblical and Talmudic law to logic, science, and medicine. He embraced the use of careful scientific reasoning and eschewed mysticism. In his 10 books on medicine, Maimonides was an early advocate for the importance of hygiene, bathing, and the need for fresh air, clean water, a healthy diet, as well as proper disposal of refuse and placement of toilets far away from living quarters. Maimonides was an early "steward" who recommended non pharmacological interventions first. He also noted where evidence was lacking and further investigation was needed before recommendations could be made. Many of the concerns and observations that Maimonides made more than 800 years ago remain highly relevant to the field of infection prevention and control today.

Maimonides died in Cairo on December 13, 1204 at the age of 69. Several legends are a scribed to Maimonides. It is unlikely that he wrote the Oath of Maimonides. He is buried in Tiberias, Palestine, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee in present-day Israel. However, this site was not chosen at random by a donkey that roamed free while bearing his body; Maimonides was interred at Tiberias at his request. Even today, Maimonides remains a highly regarded physician, philosopher, and scholar among Jewish, Arabic, and Christian circles.

Cover image: Statue of the Jewish scholar Moses Maimonides, Rabbi Mosheh Ben Maimon, Cordoba, Andalusia, Spain - courtesy of Shutterstock.



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