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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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SHEA Announces New Course on Clinical Epidemiology and Quality Improvement

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America has developed a new course in quality improvement (QI), to be offered for the first time in Florida on February 10-12, 1996. The primary target audience includes physician epidemiologists and infection control practitioners. Others who may wish to take the course include managers and clinical leaders who would like to accelerate the improvement of healthcare.

The course will use lectures, interactive seminars, and hands-on problem-solving exercises to teach participants specific QI statistical process control and epidemiology techniques, and will demonstrate how these tools can be used synergistically to improve infection control and other healthcare systems.

Both QI and clinical epidemiology can provide infection control and other healthcare professionals with powerful techniques to analyze and improve processes and outcomes of

care. The principal goals of the course are:

(1) to train infection control professionals in the basic principles and tools of total quality management;

(2) to update infection control professionals in the basic principles of clinical epidemiology;

(3) to demonstrate how total quality management and clinical epidemiology overlap and complement each other to improve both healthcare delivery processes and outcomes; and

(4) to help participants recognize, prioritize, and act upon strategic improvement opportunities in their healthcare systems.

Other goals of the course are:

(1) to demonstrate the role of information systems in improving data quality, detecting and preventing adverse events, and facilitating clinical decision making;

(2) to demonstrate how clinical decision aids (eg, clinical practice guidelines) can influence practice, resulting in more cost-effective and

higher-quality care;

(3) to demonstrate how the voice of the customer can be measured and the resulting data used to improve care and service; and

(4) to educate infection control professionals how to become more involved more effectively in management, leadership, and improvement efforts in their healthcare systems.

It is intended that, after completing the course, attendees will be prepared to make an effective contribution to improvement in systems and outcomes in their healthcare environments through synergistic application of clinical epidemiology and quality improvement theory and methodology.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to C. Glen Mayhall, MD, SHEA, Newsletter Editor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Route 1092, The Former Shriner's Bldg, Room 2-64B; University of Texas Medical Branch; Galveston, TX 77555-1092; fax (409) 772-6527. Copy should be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed 5 pages.

Editor Sought

We are contemplating inaugurating a section on Information Management. If you would be interested in serving

as Section Editor, please forward a letter describing your relevant background and your thoughts for such a section to

the Editor, Dr. Michael Decker, Vanderbilt University, A-1116 Medical Center North, Nashville, TN 37232-2637.