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## SAFETY ISSUE

Volume 6; Issue 2

MISSION: Reducing Preventable Harm



### PURPOSE OF THIS NOTIFICATION

- Increase awareness of topic
- Provide actionable items to review and mitigate potential harm.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Nursing, Medical & other Clinical Leaders

Clinical Educators

Patient Safety/Quality Improvement Leaders

Legal/Risk Management

Organization Leaders in:

- Hospitals
- EMS
- LTC
- Home Care

### NEXT STEPS

- Share this watch with the target audience
- Promote daily safety briefings
- Continue to share incidents, near misses and unsafe conditions with the Center for Patient Safety

### CONTACT

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## Culture Can Improve the Control of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms

### ISSUE:

- A number of events reported to CPS' Patient Safety Organization (PSO) demonstrate poor handoff communication about the patients' infectious disease status.
- Examples include:
  - Patient with suspected TB transferred to floor without making staff aware.
  - Patient transferred to ICU from the ED without sharing information that patient was positive for MRSA.
  - Patient directly admitted without informing receiving personnel that swab testing for influenza had come back positive.



### ACTIONABLE ITEMS TO MITIGATE RISK

- Standardize communication during handoffs.
- Include in the standardized handoffs a summary of the patient's infectious disease status, including need for precautions.
- Identify any outstanding testing during handoff.



### THE CULTURE CONNECTION

- Effective handoffs and clear communication among staff members, within and between units, are important components of a strong safety culture.
- In addition to investigating the clinical components of these events, the organizations should examine any culture factors that impede full and appropriate communication at handoffs.



### RESOURCES

- [Improving Patient Handoff](#)
- [Handoff and Communication tools](#)
- [Preventing MDRO Infections \(Comprehensive Clinical and Culture Steps for Improvement\)](#)

### MORE INFO

Contact us at 573.636.1014 or view this issue at [www.centerforpatientsafety.org](http://www.centerforpatientsafety.org)