

# Wisconsin HAI Education Series

**April 23, 2026**



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
*of* HEALTH SERVICES



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*of* HEALTH SERVICES

# The Dialysis Connection

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Infection Preventionist

HAI Prevention Program

# Disclaimer

- The Wisconsin HAI Prevention Program is non-regulatory.
- There is no affiliation with any facilities or products.
- All content is based on current guidance and best practices.

# Agenda

- Understand infection risks in dialysis patients.
- Identify high risk moments.
- Recognize how risk moves between settings.
- Understand what you can do.

# Infection Risks in Dialysis Patients



# Background



**Approximately 84,000** people in Wisconsin have chronic kidney disease.



**Over 7,000** people in Wisconsin are on dialysis.



There are **over 120** dialysis facilities in Wisconsin.



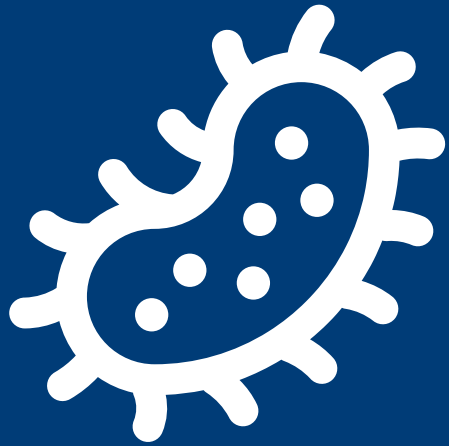
There are **over 332** nursing homes in Wisconsin.

# Infection Risks

**Dialysis patients are at an increased risk for infection due to:**

- Frequent vascular access.
- Frequent transportation.
- Water exposures.
- Being immunocompromised.
- Recurrent antibiotic use.

# Common Infections in Dialysis Residents



- Bloodstream infections
- Exit site infections
- Respiratory infection
- Gastrointestinal (GI) infections
- Multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) infections

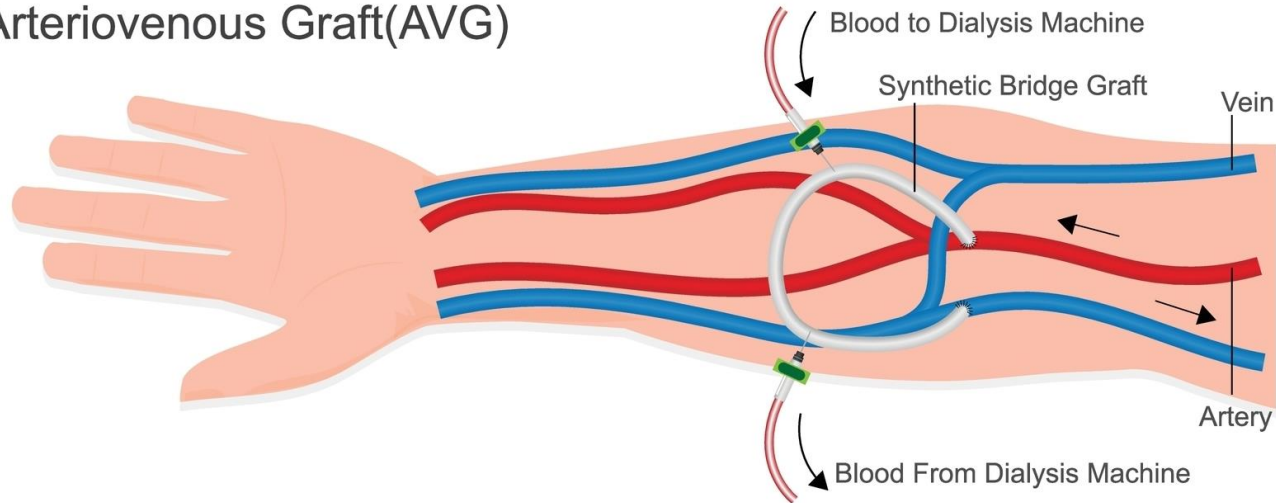
# *Staphylococcus aureus*

- *Staph aureus* is the most common infectious agent seen in dialysis patients.
- Dialysis patients are at a higher risk of methicillin-resistant *Staph aureus* (MRSA) infections.

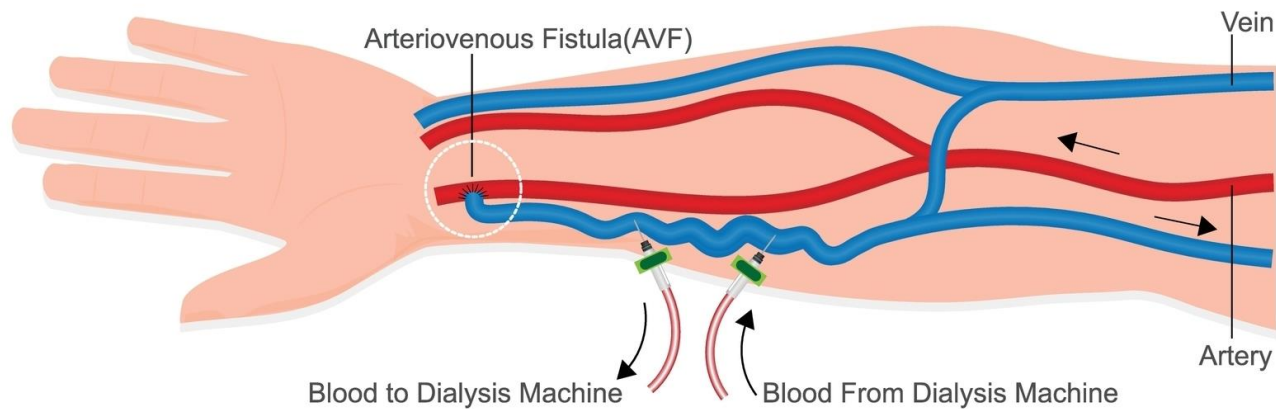


# Vascular Access Matters

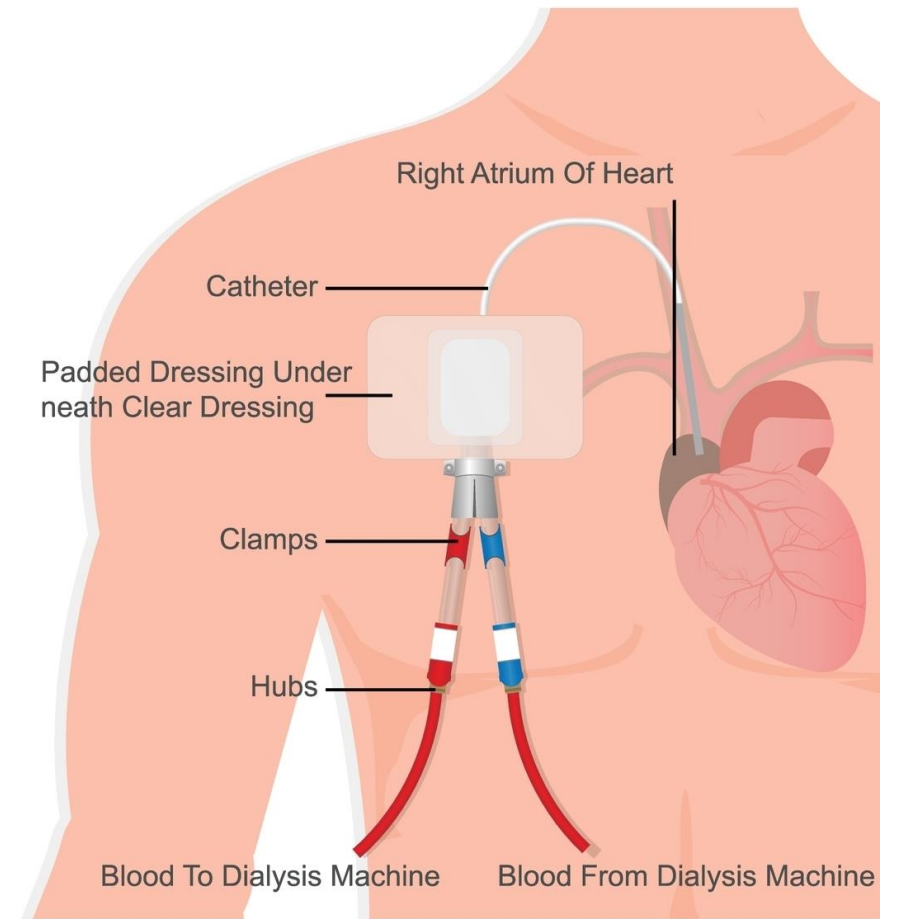
## 1. Arteriovenous Graft (AVG)



## 2. Arteriovenous Fistula (AVF)



## 3. Permanent catheter



# Identify High Risk Moments



# Where Risk Happens



- When handling access sites
- During staff turnover times
- When using high-touch equipment
- When proper personal protective equipment is not used
- When providing cares

# Where Risk Happens



- When using shared equipment
- Having close contact
- When passing medications
- During wound care
- When proper precautions are not followed

**Can patients who have an MDRO go to dialysis?**

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**YES!**



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MDROs are microorganisms that are resistant to one or more classes of antimicrobial agents.

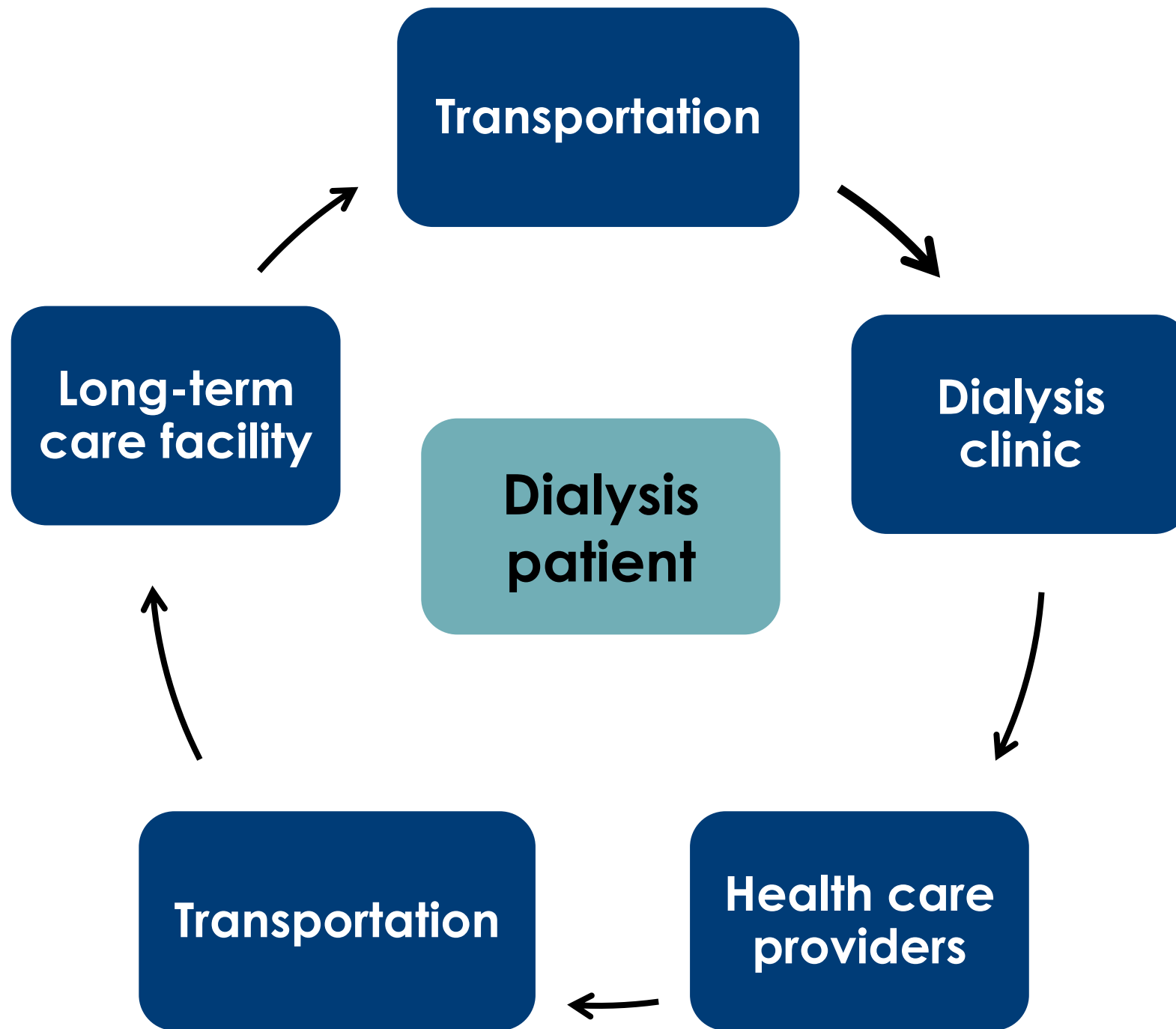
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# Colonization vs. Infection



# The Connection Between Facilities





# Important Information to Communicate

- ✓ Changes to the vascular access site
- ✓ Recent antibiotic use
- ✓ MDRO status
- ✓ Active infections or wounds

# Important Information to Communicate

- ✓ Changes to the vascular access site
- ✓ Recent antibiotic use
- ✓ MDRO status
- ✓ Active infections or wounds
- ✓ **Document everything!**

# Electronic Health Record (EHR)

- Flag the chart.
- Communicate precautions needed.
- Include MDRO status on face sheet and transfer paperwork.



# What Can You Do?



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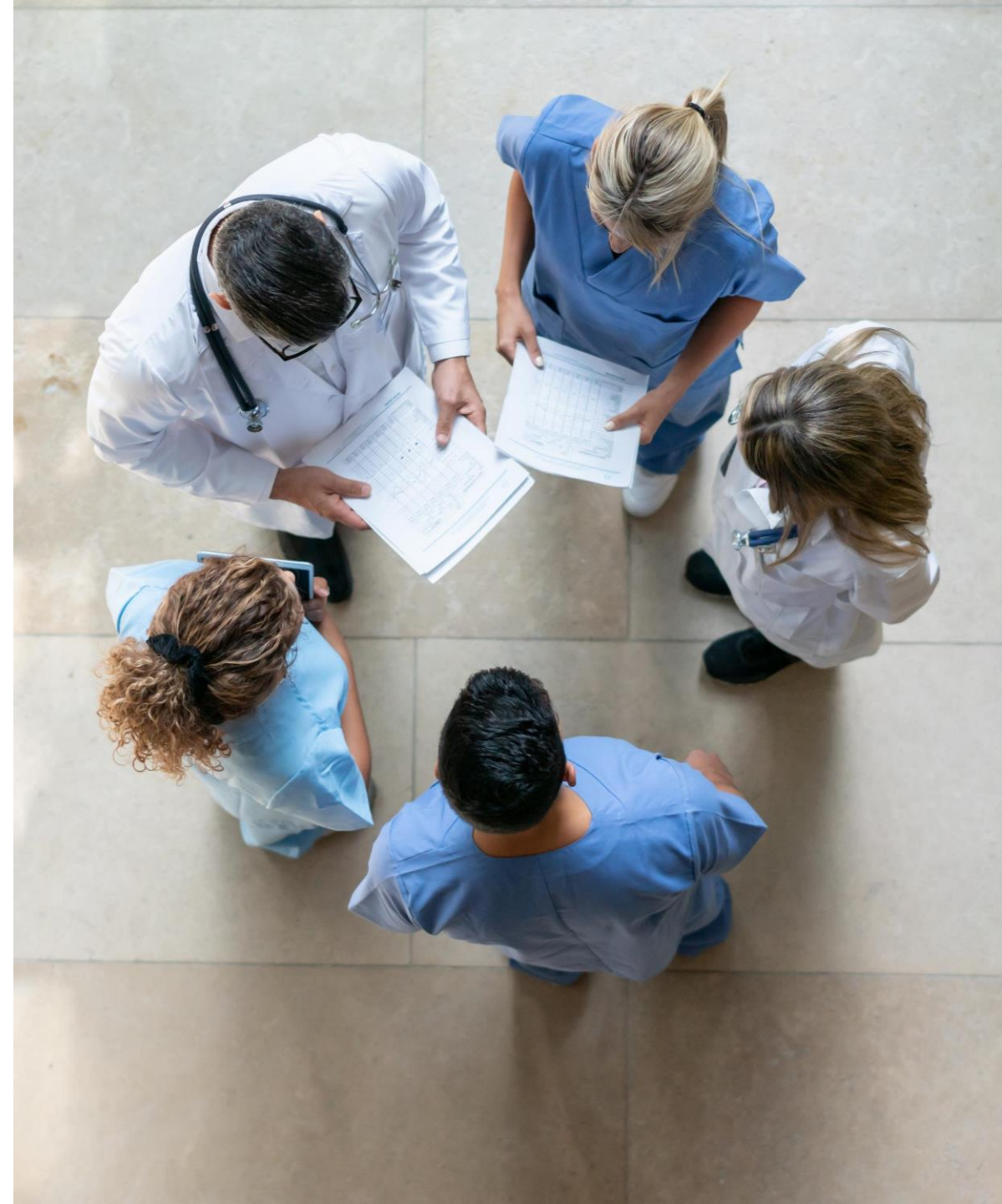
- Practice hand hygiene.
- Check access site frequently.
- Check personal items.
- Implement enhanced barrier precautions (EBPs).
- Ensure strong communication.

# What Can the Dialysis Facility Do?

- Implement hand hygiene protocols.
- Use aseptic technique for all access care.
- Implement strict station cleaning processes.
- Cohort patients when needed.

# Staff Education

- Give staff the how and why behind the practices and process in place.
- Involve them in creating practices and processes.
- Provide ongoing education and support.



# Immunizations

Recommended vaccinations for dialysis patients include:

- Influenza.
- Pneumococcal.
- Pneumonia.
- Hepatitis B.
- COVID-19.



# Door Signage



## CONTACT PRECAUTIONS EVERYONE MUST:



Clean their hands, including before entering and when leaving the room.

### PROVIDERS AND STAFF MUST ALSO:



Put on gloves before room entry.  
Discard gloves before room exit.



Put on gown before room entry.  
Discard gown before room exit.

Do not wear the same gown and gloves for the care of more than one person.



Use dedicated or disposable equipment.  
Clean and disinfect reusable equipment before use on another person.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## ENHANCED BARRIER PRECAUTIONS EVERYONE MUST:



Clean their hands, including before entering and when leaving the room.

### PROVIDERS AND STAFF MUST ALSO:

Wear gloves and a gown for the following High-Contact Resident Care Activities.

- Dressing
- Bathing/Showering
- Transferring
- Changing Linens
- Providing Hygiene
- Changing briefs or assisting with toileting
- Device care or use:
  - central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy
- Wound Care: any skin opening requiring a dressing

Do not wear the same gown and gloves for the care of more than one person.



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# Cleaning and Disinfection

- Use registered disinfectant.
- Follow instructions for use.
- Follow contact time.
- Focus on high touch surfaces.
- Establish protocols.
- Complete audits.

Environmental Services

## Infection Prevention and Control Playbook



Wisconsin Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Prevention Program



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**We are all in this  
together!**

# Resources

- American Society of Nephrology: [MDROs](#)
- CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention): [Implementation of PPE in Nursing Homes to Prevent the Spread of MDROs.](#)
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services: [Infection Prevention in Dialysis Settings](#)

**Questions?**

**Dialysis  
Infection  
Preventionist**

## **Rebecca Hellen**



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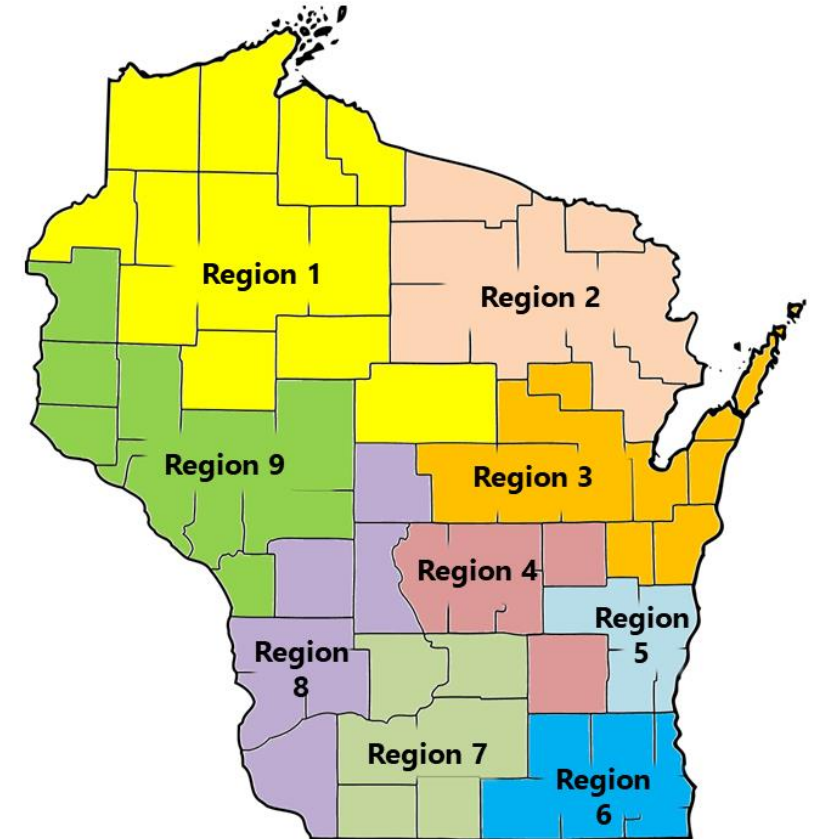
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# HAI Prevention Program Contacts



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**Website:** [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm)

# HAI Infection Prevention Education webpage



- HAI: Home
- For Health Professionals
- For Patients & Families
- Infection Prevention Education**
- Infection Preventionist Starter Kit
- Multidrug-Resistant Organisms
- Precautions
- HAI Data
- National Healthcare Safety Network
- Antimicrobial Stewardship



## HAI Infection Prevention Education

IPs play an essential role in facility infection prevention policy development, surveillance, and risk assessment. IPs also serve as a resource to other staff and programs within their facilities. The resources on this page are intended to connect health care facility infection preventionists (IP) with education materials to support their role in preventing, detecting, and responding to healthcare-associated infections (HAI).

### Webinars

#### HAI Education Series

The HAI Education Series provides educational presentations on topics including infection prevention, HAIs, antibiotic stewardship, disease surveillance, and outbreak response for health care staff in all setting types, local and Tribal health departments, and other health care partners. Each session features a new, timely topic presented by the Department of Health Services (DHS) program staff, HAI infection preventionists, partner organizations, or other external subject matter experts.

The HAI Education Series is a monthly webinar series, typically held the fourth Thursday of each month. Register for the [HAI Education Series](#).

HAI Education Series recordings



# Upcoming HAI Education Session

Date: *May 28, 2026*

Topic: *Water Management Programs*



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