



**TETON VALLEY
HEALTH CARE**

Partners in Health for a Lifetime

From: Teton Valley Hospital
120 East Howard Ave. Driggs 83422
Contact: Ann Loyola, Hospital Spokesperson
(208) 354-6301
aloyola@tvhcare.org
FAX: (208) 354-3158

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Quality standard exceeded at Teton Valley Hospital

Teton Valley Hospital surpassed healthcare norms by posting a zero-percent infection rate for inpatients for 2008. Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) rates have been dropping nationally due to many quality initiatives and although 0% is everyone's goal, it's a very difficult goal to reach.

According to a 2008 study performed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HAIs affect 5 – 10% of hospitalized patients annually. Common infections include MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*), urinary tract infection, pneumonia and blood-stream infection. Teton Valley Hospital has reported rates under 1% for three years prior to the 2008 measurement.

“We've focused on several quality initiatives to keep our infection rates low,” says Infection Control Nurse Director Bonnie Burlage. “Increased vaccinations for staff and patients, better handwashing controls, improved sterilization equipment for instruments, and selective pre-screening for infections all come into play.”

Patients may already be infected when they are admitted to Teton Valley Hospital.

“Virtually all monitored infections have a 24-hour incubation period. If a patient shows an infection within that time frame, we can conclude that the person was infected prior to admission,” continues Burlage.

The hospital infection control committee meets monthly to review patient care, emerging trends, and ongoing quality initiatives. Committee members include Bonnie Burlage RN, Judy Burnside, Director of Laboratory Services, pathology specialists from Idaho Falls, and Kelley Coburn, Pharmacist.

“We have excellent staff at Teton Valley Hospital,” adds CEO Floyd Bounds. “They're dedicated to our patients and it shows.”

The mission of Teton Valley Hospital is to promote the health of the community by delivering quality, patient-centered medical services with compassion, integrity and respect. For more information about this article, please contact info@tvhcare.org or call hospital spokesperson Ann Loyola at 354-6301.
