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## NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

### **JULY 22-23 LAS VEGAS SUMMIT an OPPORTUNITY for HEALTH PROFESSIONALS to MEET WITH STATE REGULATORS and LEARN ABOUT IMPORTANT INFECTION PREVENTION and CONTROL REGULATORY CHANGES**

(Carson City) – A unique and exciting opportunity for healthcare professionals to meet with Nevada State Health Division staff while learning the latest about new legislation that will change how their facilities report and respond to healthcare-associated infections is a focus of an upcoming summit set for July 22 and 23 in Las Vegas. The summit at the Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel, sponsored by the Nevada State Health Division, is a chance to get ahead of the curve on a number of important upcoming Nevada regulatory changes that will affect hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers and other healthcare providers.

Titled “Healthcare-Associated Infections: Translating Knowledge into Practice,” the summit is aimed at health facility administrators, directors of nursing, infection preventionists, medical directors, and other key facility staff. All of these medical professionals are invited to attend. The cost, which is being supported by the Nevada State Health Division, is only \$99 per person.

Preventing infection and controlling outbreaks are major concerns for health facilities nationally and particularly in Nevada after Southern Nevada Health District officials last year identified the potential exposure of over 40,000 patients to hepatitis C from unsafe injection practices at two ambulatory surgical centers in Las Vegas. Recent actions by the Nevada Legislature will mean some significant changes to how healthcare facilities report and respond to such infections.

Among the changes to be discussed at the two-day event are requirements for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to report healthcare-associated infection data to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN.) As part of this discussion topic, attendees will learn how to use the NHSN. This information will be presented in part by Katherine Allen-Bridson, RN, BSN, CIC, Nurse Epidemiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia.

Also on the summit agenda is a discussion of the new Nevada requirements for Ambulatory Surgical Centers to become accredited.

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As part of this discussion, Barbara M. Soule, RN, MPA, CIC, Practice Leader, Infection Prevention from Joint Commission Resources, on Thursday will give participants an update on the activities and processes of The Joint Commission, one of the nation's leading accrediting organizations.

The summit agenda includes multiple opportunities for facilities to learn how to improve their infection prevention and control programs. Some of these opportunities include:

- A discussion Wednesday by Russell Olmsted, MPH, CIC, on: “Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) are a Public Health Issue: The Infection Preventionist as the Keystone.” Mr. Olmsted has since 1987 served as Epidemiologist, Infection Control Services – Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. Olmsted, who also serves as a member of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, will also present an update Thursday on the latest CDC guidelines for infection prevention and control.
- A discussion Wednesday by Betsy Hackman, RN, BSN, CIC, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, on the subject of disinfection and sterilization and Thursday on the topic of healthcare preparedness for an influenza pandemic.
- A presentation on Wednesday on the Prevention of Device-Associated Infections by Carolyn Ford-Trudo, RN, CIC, Infection Control Coordinator at St Rose Dominican Hospital.

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Health Division Administrator Richard Whitley urges Nevada health professionals to take advantage of the summit and its many expert presentations.

“This is an excellent opportunity for health care professionals to receive valuable information about infection prevention and control,” Administrator Whitley said. “While the hepatitis C situation in Clark County forced all of the stakeholders to reevaluate the infection control practices in their environment, infection control must be in place at all times in order to ensure patient safety. I urge all health care professionals to take advantage of this summit.”

Continuing education credit has already been approved for nurses, physicians and community health education specialists (CHES).

Registration, hotel reservations and additional information about the summit, including the full agenda, can be found at the Nevada State Health Division website at:

<http://health.nv.gov/HCQC.htm/>

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