

Take-home points for the CEO

A new report by the Joint Commission on multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), includes the following "take-home" points for health care CEOs and administrators.

1. MDROs are causing a crisis in health care.
2. The problem of MDROs is increasing and shows no signs of improving.
3. MDROs can rapidly spread in hospitals.
4. New antibiotics cannot effectively fight many rapidly spreading MDROs.
5. MDRO is clearly associated with significantly increased hospital costs.
6. The average annual cost of hospital-acquired infections at most institutions is more than four times greater than the amount budgeted for infection control programs.
7. Investing in state-of-the-art, aggressive infection control and antibiotic stewardship programs will usually result in cost savings.
8. The only way to track costs of MDROs, trends in associated costs, and impact and success of interventions is to continuously perform standardized infection surveillance, routinely review the data, and use published costs of hospital-acquired pathogens to measure the financial impact of these pathogens. ■