

## **HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS**

- Healthcare associated infections (HAIs) are infections that patients acquire while receiving treatment for medical or surgical conditions.
- HAIs are caused by a variety of factors with the majority attributed to the use of medical devices (such as catheters and ventilators) which provide a route for contamination and a source for bacterial growth in the body.
- HAIs occur in all settings of care, including hospitals, same day surgical centers, healthcare clinics, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities.
- In the acute care hospital setting, four categories of infections account for approximately three-quarters of HAIs:
  - Central line-associated bloodstream infections
  - Ventilator-associated pneumonia
  - Catheter-associated urinary tract infections
  - Surgical site infections
- Drug-resistant infections such as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) contribute significantly to the overall problem in terms of morbidity and associated treatment costs.
- The Percentage of HAIs in all settings of care:
  - 34% - urinary tract infections
  - 17% - surgical site infections
  - 14% - bloodstream infections
  - 13% - pneumonia
- HAIs exact a significant toll on human life:
  - HAIs are among the leading causes of preventable death in the United States.
  - In hospitals, HAIs are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality.
  - Nearly 2 million HAIs and 100,000 associated deaths were reported in 2002.
  - HAIs kill more people each year in the U.S. than AIDS, breast cancer, and auto accidents combined.
- In addition to the tremendous impact HAIs have on human life, the financial burden caused by these infections is staggering:
  - HAIs add \$28 to \$33 billion in excess U.S. healthcare costs annually.