What is OneTogether?

OneTogether: The Power of Small Actions, is a multi-year program with the goal of driving individual small actions to collectively generate a significant impact on the incidence of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). The goal is to engage a broad spectrum of partners and individuals who care passionately about this issue and have a willingness to approach this problem in a new way. It is designed to create an open dialogue on HAI prevention that elevates the infection prevention and control conversation across all areas of a hospital, no matter their specialties or disciplines.

An independent advisory panel of 35 passionate healthcare professionals, with diverse medical expertise, has been established to guide and shape the movement. By engaging in the movement, healthcare providers will be empowered to bring sustained behavioral change to their facilities.

OneTogether was ignited by 3M Infection Prevention, in collaboration with the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM), the Surgical Infection Society (SIS) and Practice Greenhealth.

Why OneTogether?

OneTogether is built from the E³ platform detailed in the Educate, Empower, Engage: A Collaborative Interdisciplinary Call to Action for Reducing Surgical Site Infection whitepaper, published in 2012 and based on work done at the fourth annual Infection Prevention Leadership Summit.

The whitepaper represented the consensus opinion of 80 leaders and experts that there are three barriers to elimination of HAIs – education, empowerment and engagement. It highlighted the understanding that science and technology aren’t enough and that more attention to behavioral science is needed. It issued a call to action to leaders – from executives to staff – to approach this problem differently and leverage the power of unity to overcome these barriers.

How Do You Get Involved?

To join or learn more about the OneTogether movement, visit www.joinonetogether.org.

Professional organizations interested in joining the OneTogether movement can learn more by visiting www.joinonetogether.org.
The Numbers:
This year, nearly 100,000 people will die from preventable HAIs. At this moment, 1.4 million people are affected, and one out of every 20 hospitalized patients will contract a HAI. The numbers are staggering.

HAIs also constitute a heavy financial burden for the healthcare system. The average cost of treatment for one patient with a healthcare associated infection can add up to $25,000. The avoidable costs are staggering: in the U.S. alone, the annual direct medical costs of HAIs can be as high as $45 billion.

Sources:

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