

Improving Standard of Health Care: QA, Improvement Programs & Hospital Sanitation in the Federated States of Micronesia

A Panel Discussion

Future of Health Care in the Insular Areas

Honolulu, Hawaii

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Summit convened by DOI, HHS, DVA, &
DOD

What standards are

- What is the reference point?
- “Do the best with what you’ve got”

Hospital Sanitation

- Water
- Electricity
- Maintenance vs compartmentalization of duties
- Policies
- Commitments/ownership
- Inadequacy of space vs family support

Existing Policies for improved sanitation

- Infection Control protocols
- Garbage/waste disposal policies
- Visitors/attendants policies
- No smoking/no chewing policies
- Designated “green days”
- “Clean field of work” understanding

Actions to implement standards

- Quality Assurance Coordinating office
- Unit Audits
- Designated “Green Days”
- Clean field of work policy
- Incentive awards

Challenges to implementing standards

- Inadequate supplies & equipment
- Inadequate management and staff support
- Much needed training and understanding of rational is lagging behind
- Utility rationing
- Deteriorating facilities
- Personal attitudes “somebody else is paid to do it”

Reviews completed on this issue

- Recommendations following epidemics of cholera in some of the jurisdictions
- Part of quality assurance recommendations by the health related associations in the region
- No formal review until the IG report that is being discussed during this summit

Recommendations to overcome challenges

- Directors to make the best standard for the current situation and upgrade as time changes and resources are improved
- Restructure staffing and responsibilities; shift coverage and working hours
- Regular consistent audits with constructive feedbacks & better incentive awards
- Integrate services and share responsibilities
- Community education on hospital hygiene
- Enforcement of existing policies & regulations
- ?? Privatization of the maintenance unit
- Increase availability of water, electricity and waste disposal units

Reviews necessary related to this issue

- Review and update of the Infection control protocol
- Review and strengthening of sanitation related policies and regulations

Thank you