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
September 29-30, 2008
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