

CDC's Emerging Infections Program
CDC/USDA/FDA Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network
FoodNet Steering Committee Conference Call Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 12, 2007

Time: 2:00-3:00pm ET

Attendance: CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, TN, USDA-FSIS, CDC

A. Administrative

1. Linda Demma's last day 7/13; Hannah Gould filling the position.
2. Update on manuscripts
3. ICEID March 16-19, 2008
 - a. Abstract submission timeline – mid November
 - b. Submit proposals (title and one paragraph summary) for the September SC call
4. Vision Meeting 2008
 - a. Tentative dates: March 6-7, 2008; Scientific Day: March 5, 2008 (tentative)
 - A. Suggested location: Colorado. Contact Mary if your site would like to host the meeting.

B. Surveillance

1. Performance standards
 - a. Background/history
 - A. Established in 1999 in conjunction with site partners. Scores provided to sites each year. Some standards used in overall performance rating matrix in 2006. Conference calls held in Jan, Feb, Mar 2007 to review. Proposed changes sent to steering committee two weeks prior to this call for review.
 - b. Proposed revisions (pg 6)
 - A. Site comments: General
 - A. Difficult for some sites to reach 100% in some categories (e.g. international travel history) due to the fact that all cases are not routinely interviewed. Suggest instituting some sampling criteria and/or credit for improvement over time.
 - B. We should aim for high standards knowing that not all sites will be able to attain them.
 - C. Proposal to assess some standards for selected pathogens only (i.e. those which are routinely interviewed: *E.coli*, *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *Vibrio*). Alternate proposal to assess standards for routinely interviewed pathogens at a higher level than those not pathogens which are not routinely interviewed (*Campylobacter*, *Cyclospora*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Shigella*, *Yersinia*).
 - B. By Standard:
 - A. Revisions:
 - A. (#4-5) Interviews for travel history: no strong disagreement to increasing assessment level, but some sites felt that they would not be able to meet a higher standard due to lack of interviews.
 - B. (#6) Incorporate EFORS number for non-foodborne outbreaks of *E.coli* O157: alternate proposal to include all *Salmonella* and *E.coli* outbreaks but wait until new EFORS is active before implementing.
 - C. (#48-49) FoodNet cases linked to national case report form: Agree to amend standard as proposed.
 - B. Deletions
 - A. (#21) Isolates with serotype/species information in active surveillance – *Listeria*: agreement to delete.
 - B. (#34-40) NARMS isolates linked to FoodNet cases: agreement to delete.
 - C. (#41-47) FoodNet cases linked to PulseNet: agreement to delete
 - C. Additions
 - A. HUS completeness – mode of ascertainment and diarrheal status: some discussion over the importance of including this as a standard, but no strong objections.
 - B. FoodNet cases linked to national case report forms (*Listeria*): no objections to including as a standard.
 - C. Race completeness: agreement that this is an important new standard but will be difficult to assess with inclusion of all pathogens. Suggest assessing at a high level for selected pathogens only (*E.coli*, *Salmonella*, *Listeria* and *Vibrio*).
 - D. Still under discussion
 - A. (#2-3) Outcome: suggest assessing at a high level, but for selected pathogens only (*E.coli*, *Salmonella*, *Listeria* and *Vibrio*). Some sites feel that these standards should be combined into a single measure, but no agreement was reached on this point.
 - B. (#9) Initial EFORS report within two months of first illness onset: no discussion.

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C. Linking to national case report forms – are there key variables that are expected to be completed:
no discussion. Will follow up with national case surveillance unit at CDC.

- c. Final revisions will be distributed two weeks prior to the September steering call
- d. Effective date of revised performance standards to be discussed

C. Working Groups and Special Studies

- 1. Attributions working group
 - a. Draft manuscript on *Salmonella* modeling work in progress
 - b. Peter Gerner-Smidt starting pilot study of using *Salmonella* PFGE
- 2. Outbreak working group
 - a. Developing MN study protocol for outbreaks of unknown etiology

D. Special study tables reviewed

- 1. Clinical outcomes
- 2. *E.coli* Cohort study
- 3. Select *Salmonella* serotypes

E. Data request

- 1. *S. Heidelberg* data from Oregon 2004-2005 (Kristin Holt)
 - a. FSIS modeling project to predict problems in processing plants; data request fulfilled.

F. Surveillance data

- 1. Active
- 2. Outbreak
- 3. HUS

G. Upcoming FoodNet conference calls, meetings, and deadlines

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| 1. Wednesday, | July 25 th | Selected <i>Salmonella</i> serotypes study | 3:00-4:00pm |
| 2. Thursday, | July 26 th | Antibiotic resistance working group | 1:00-2:00pm |
| 3. Thursday, | July 26 th | FoodNet coordinator | 2:00-3:00pm |
| 4. Thursday, | August 2 nd | Attributions working group | 11:00-12:00pm |
| 5. Thursday, | August 9 th | STEC/HUS working group | 12:00-1:00pm |
| 6. Thursday, | August 16 th | Outbreak working group | 3:00-4:00pm |
| 7. Friday, | July 20 th | FoodNet Data Transmission Deadline | |