

Contact: Carol Rubiano
212-580-9706

NYS SAFETY SURVEY SHOWS ZERO INFECTION RATE POSTOP FOR COLON SURGERY AT BETH ISRAEL-KINGS HIGHWAY DIVISION

August 19, 2009 -- Beth Israel Medical Center-Kings Highway Division received the equivalent of an A+ grade for achieving a zero infection rate for post-op colon surgery as reported in the latest state-wide survey on hospital-acquired infections (HAI) issued by the New York State Department of Health. The Kings Highway Division was one of only a handful of hospitals in New York City that earned the zero-infection rate distinction.

“A zero infection rate in the hundreds of cases of colon surgery performed at the Kings Highway Division reflects the conscientious and constant effort to observe safety protocols in surgery and postoperatively,” said Merab Krikhely, MD, KHD Chief of Surgery and Vice Chairman, Department of Surgery at Beth Israel. “A zero infection rate is the best recommendation for patients and an excellent measure of the quality of care that patients can expect from Beth Israel and its staff.”

Hospital-acquired infection is a major public health problem that significantly adds to the cost of healthcare and is associated with several thousand deaths annually. “Hand hygiene through washing hands with soap and water or with alcohol-based hand gels is the best way to prevent a healthcare-acquired infection,” said Brian Koll, MD, a specialist in Infectious Diseases and Chief of Infection Control at Beth Israel.

“Infection prevention requires vigilance and the continual collaboration between doctors, nurses and other staff,” said Marie Flordeliza, RN, KHD Vice President for Patient Care Services. “Achieving a zero infection rate occurs because of everyone doing their best to ensure the safest environment for patients.”

According to Rhona Hetsrony, KHD Vice President for Administration, in addition to hand hygiene compliance and vigilant infection control surveillance, quality improvement measures and intensive staff in-service education at Beth Israel have contributed to the overall decline of infection rates throughout the hospital.

“We are doing everything we can to provide the best and safest healing environment for our patients,” said Ms. Hetsrony.