

Hospital Acquired Infections

I'm sure many of you have seen information in the media lately about people who have gotten an infection while staying in the hospital. Unfortunately infections do occur in all hospitals however, we are pleased to say that our infection rate is very low. The overall infection rate for patients at MMH is 1%. This is a very low rate of infection acquisition even for a rural hospital. Most infection control literature that you read, including that from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that the commonly reported infection rate for a hospital is between 5% and 6%. Rural hospitals typically show 3% - 4% rates while some large teaching hospitals have much higher rates because they typically care for very complex and complicated patients.

Currently we are unable to do direct comparisons of infection rates between specific hospitals. This is mostly due to inconsistency in applying the CDC definitions of infections and the difference in types of patients and conditions that are cared for at the different facilities. The staff members and Infection Control Committee at MMH have tracked infection rates for many many years and we continue to monitor the trends of our specific rates.

Our staff members are working very hard to keep this rate as low as possible. One of the most effective and important ways to control hospital infections has proven to be cleansing your hands. You'll notice everyone at MMH cleansing their hands frequently with either soap and water or the alcohol gel. If you don't see someone cleanse their hands, please feel free to ask them if they have. You will also notice alcohol gel dispensers placed throughout the hospital so all of our visitors can help prevent the spread of infections, too. We have many other precautions in place to help make MMH free from the germs that cause infections.

Our ultimate goal is to have zero infections. We will never stop in our quest to make that happen and to make MMH your Choice for all of your healthcare services.