

## Omaha health system saves nearly \$1.7 million in six months since installing Premier's automated infection tracking, surveillance system

Alegent Health is the largest not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare system in Nebraska and southwestern Iowa with nine acute care hospitals and more than 100 sites of service. It is ranked first in the country in quality and patient satisfaction according to the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement.

### SITUATION

Because of increasing costs of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), reimbursement changes that do not pay for HAIs, and inefficiencies associated with manual tracking of infections, the system in 2007 decided to install an automated infection tracking and surveillance system to prioritize workflow, monitor antimicrobial stewardship, support patient safety and provide a database to help analyze root causes of infections.

### SOLUTION

- Installed automated infection surveillance technology with SafetySurveillor™ in its five largest hospitals
- Centralized, systematized infection prevention program
- Required infection prevention specialists to be registered RNs; team members to specialize, such as central alert monitoring

### RESULTS

- **With no additional staff, much less time spent on paper work; more time for staff education, training; corporate focus allows more efficient coverage**
- **Centralized surveillance is ongoing regardless of emergencies such as the H1N1 pandemic**
- **Real time data allows much better decision making; staff can react more quickly, redeploy assets as necessary**
- **Decreased infection rate has resulted in decreased mortality, decreased length of stay for infection cases and a savings of \$1.679 million in six months**




This is your healthcare

Alegent Health is the largest not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare system in Nebraska and southwestern Iowa with nine acute care hospitals, more than 100 sites of service, over 1,300 physicians on its medical staff and approximately 9,000 employees. It is ranked first in the country in quality and patient satisfaction according to the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI). It is sponsored by Catholic Health Initiatives and Immanuel Health Systems. [www.alegent.com](http://www.alegent.com)

*"We present a lot of data to board committees. In the past, I would be presenting data that was six months old. It's really hard to develop action plans for what happened six months ago. Real time data allows us to make much better decisions."*

*Angela R. Ward, RPh, MSB, Quality & Ancillary Services Executive*

*"The thing that has changed the most is surveillance never stops. Before, if something like H1N1 happened, something would stop – usually surveillance."*

*Emily Hawkins, RN, BSN, MPA, Infection Prevention Coordinator*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Informatics Solution Center at 800.805.4608 or [InformaticsSolutionCenter@premierinc.com](mailto:InformaticsSolutionCenter@premierinc.com).

