



Value of Diagnostics – Key Bullet points

Screening Programs for Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI)

1. Hospital-acquired infections are a major contributor to morbidity and mortality:
 - a. 1 out of 10 hospitalised patients in Europe contracts a nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infection,
 - b. 150 persons die in Europe every day due to a hospital acquired infection.
2. Hospital acquired infections are a burden on Health Care Costs:
 - a. Annihilating the results of advanced and expensive medical treatment,
 - b. Increasing the length of hospital stay by 8 days on average per affected patient,
 - c. Thereby adding more than 10 million unnecessary patient days in hospitals in Europe per year.
3. An increasing proportion of bacteria have become unaffected by common antibiotic treatment regimens. This phenomenon is called “antimicrobial resistance”. Resistant strains are much more frequent among HAI. They are difficult to treat, their treatment is very expensive and they result in a higher patient mortality than susceptible strains.
The most common problem strains are Methicillin Resistant Staph aureus (MRSA), Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) and Enterobacteriaceae with an Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase (ESBL).
4. Active surveillance cultures and screening is needed to prevent nosocomial infections: Detecting the unrecognized MRSA-colonized or VRE-colonized patients helps to prevent transmission and infections.
5. An active infection control program of patients and personnel, including surveillance cultures, admission screening and contact isolation in addition to hygiene measures, has proven to significantly reduce both the number of infections and hospitalization costs.
6. Active surveillance cultures to identify e.g. MRSA carriers are justified and efficient from an economical standpoint, leading to significant cost savings for healthcare systems and society.
7. Active surveillance programs are successful: e.g. The Netherlands, Denmark and Finland have succeeded in controlling HAI and in stabilizing resistance rates.



This paper has been prepared by the **EDMA Value of IVDs Task Force**.

EDMA, the European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association is the voice of the *In Vitro* diagnostic industry active in Europe. EDMA membership brings together National Associations and the major companies, representing in total more than **500 companies (or over 700 legal entities)** engaged in **the research, development, manufacture or distribution of IVD products**. EDMA cooperates with other European and international trade associations as well as with scientific societies and patients organisations, to **make a real difference in health and life quality**.

In Vitro Diagnostics are the tests performed on a biological sample to make diagnose or rule out a disease. They are used for screening for disease and for monitoring therapy and to ensure the safety of the blood used in transfusions. About 64% of the information held on the patient record comes from diagnostic tests. IVDs cover a wide range from sophisticated technologies run in clinical laboratories to simple self-tests such as for pregnancy.