

## **NSHN Inquiry: 3/9/2011 CLABSI Attribution**

### **Question posed by Annemarie Flood, Infection Control Program Coordinator, City of Hope:**

My question is this, in today's healthcare system, there are many patients, E.g. oncology and dialysis who are admitted to a facility with a preexisting central line. The definitions state "There is no minimum period of time that the central line must be in place in order for the BSI to be considered central line-associated" However if a patient with a preexisting CVC develops a BSI in the first 48 hours of admission, would this not be a community associated event? Eg incubating on admission?

### **Answer from NHSN, Katherine Allen-Bridson, RN, BSN, CIC, Nurse Consultant:**

In general, the answer to this would be yes. If there is a device in place at the time of admission, and that patient has a the first symptom of BSI present within 48 hours of admission, then the BSI would be attributed to the healthcare agency providing care outside the hospital. This would be akin to the Transfer Rule within NHSN.