

June 27, 2000

**Appendix 1**

September 1, 2000

Dear Colleague,

An estimated 76 million cases of foodborne illness occur in the United States each year, including 350,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths<sup>1</sup>. Patient education about safe food eating habits is an important part of preventing foodborne illness. In order to gain a better understanding of the physician's role as a food-safety educator, the Emerging Infections Program's Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) is distributing questionnaires to physicians practicing in the following eight states: California, Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, and Tennessee.

Since pregnant women and persons with immunocompromised conditions are considered at higher risk for severe forms of foodborne illness, we are sending questionnaires to physicians who serve these 'at-risk' populations. Your response to this questionnaire will help us determine the best methods to educate the public about food safety.

The following survey will take approximately TEN minutes to complete. Again, your input is valuable and greatly appreciated. Please return the questionnaire and consent form to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the stamped and addressed envelope provided. It is important for all questionnaires, even those not completely filled out, to be returned.

If you have any questions with regard to this survey, please feel free to call [site contact person name and number]. If you would like more information on food safety practices for your patients, we invite you to visit the following CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Additionally, we would be happy to send you information upon request. We thank you in advance for your participation in our survey.

Sincerely,

[name: Site contact person]  
[position]

<sup>1</sup>Mead P, Slutsker L, Dietz V, McCraig L, Bresee J, Shapiro C, Griffin P, and Tauxe R. Food-Related Illness and Death in the United States. Emerging Infectious Diseases. 1999; 5(5):607-625.

Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A : Background Information**

1. Today's date is \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2000  
Month Day
2. I am a practicing physician within the state of (CA, CT, GA, MD, MN, NY, OR, or TN) .
- Yes  
 No [If no, please **stop here and send in questionnaire** using the stamped envelope provided]
3. I am involved in direct patient care at least eight (8) hours per week.
- Yes  
 No [if no, please **stop here and send in questionnaire**]
4. Type of practice [please check one]:
- Obstetrics or Gynecology  
 Oncology or Hematology  
 Infectious Disease  
 Nephrology  
 A Subspecialty of Internal Medicine not Named Above
- (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Primary** clinic setting [please check one]:
- Outpatient private practice / Fee for service  
 Outpatient HMO/Managed Care  
 Hospital-based  
 Other [please specify]
6. Are you currently an intern, resident, or fellow?
- Yes [**skip to Question 8**]  
 No
7. I have been in practice (post-internship, post-residency, post- fellowship) for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
8. On average, how many patients do you see per week? [circle one]

- a. none
- b. 1-10
- c. 11-25
- d. 26-50
- e. 51-75
- f. >75
- g. not sure

9. **Approximately** what percentage of your patients are immunocompromised or pregnant? [circle one]

- a. 0%
- b. 1-25%
- c. 26-50%
- d. 51-75%
- e. 76-100%
- f. not sure

**Section B: Patient Education**

10. How often do your patients ask you about food safety or prevention of foodborne illness? [circle one]

- a. never
- b. rarely
- c. occasionally
- d. often
- e. not sure

11. Does anyone in your practice provide information on foodborne illness or prevention of foodborne illness to your patients?[check one]

- Yes [skip to **Question 13**]
- No [go to **Question 12**]

12. Would you like to provide foodborne illness prevention information to your patients?

- Yes [skip to **Question 17**]
- No [skip to **Question 17**]

13. Who provides foodborne illness prevention information to your patients? [circle all that apply]

- a. yourself (physician)
- b. nurse or nurse-practitioner
- c. dietician or nutritionist
- d. other [please specify] \_\_\_\_\_
- e. not sure

14. How is information about foodborne illness provided to your patients? [circle all that apply]

- a. verbally, with an extensive discussion
- b. verbally, with a brief discussion
- c. brochure/patient fact sheet
- d. poster in office / waiting room
- e. video
- f. other self-help materials [please specify] \_\_\_\_\_

15. What information about food safety do you provide? [circle all that apply]

- a. food-handling or preparation
- b. 'risky' foods (for example: undercooked meat, unpasteurized cheese)
- c. prevention of foodborne salmonellosis
- d. prevention of foodborne listeriosis
- e. prevention of foodborne or waterborne cryptosporidiosis
- f. prevention of other foodborne disease (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- g. food safety advice specific for persons with HIV/AIDS
- h. food safety advice specific for pregnant women
- i. food safety advice specific for other populations (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- j. other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

16. When is food-safety practice information provided? [circle all that apply]

- a. initial intake
- b. routine office visit
- c. when patient requests information
- d. when patient is diagnosed with foodborne illness
- e. other special circumstances [please specify] \_\_\_\_\_
- f. not sure

**Section C: Foodborne Illness**

How much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements? Please **circle** ONE number (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5).

17. Foodborne illness can be a serious problem in immunocompromised patients.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

18. Many of my patients are "at-risk" for infectious diseases, including foodborne diseases.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

19. Assuring that patients receive education about prevention of foodborne illness is part of the physician's role.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

20. I want to be aware of the risks of foodborne illness in my patients.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

21. My patients would be interested in learning how they can prevent foodborne diseases.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

22. I am willing to provide a brief (three minute) talk to my patients on preventing foodborne illness.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

23. Educating patients about food safety will result in a decrease in foodborne illness.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

24. My patients are likely to comply to recommendations I provide on prevention of foodborne illness.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

25. Effectively educating patients on how to prevent foodborne illness takes too much time.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

26. I am comfortable with my general knowledge of foodborne illness

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

27. I am confident about diagnosing and treating foodborne illness in my patients.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

28. I am comfortable making recommendations on how to prevent foodborne illness.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

29. My patients feel that I am a valuable resource for advice on prevention of foodborne diseases.

Strongly agree                      Neutral                      Strongly disagree  
1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5

30. I would like to receive more information on food safety practices for my patients.

- Yes
- No

31. Please include any comments or suggestions below:

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Again, thank you for filling out this questionnaire. Your responses are greatly appreciated and will help us to determine the best methods to educate the public about food safety.

Please **send in the questionnaire** using the envelope provided.  
Thank you!