

IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO PREVENT HARM TO YOUR RESIDENTS

NATIONAL NURSING HOME QUALITY CARE COLLABORATIVE: C. DIFFICILE—JOIN TODAY!

Work with your quality innovation network-quality improvement organization (QIN-QIO) to prevent *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*)

Using a Quality Assurance & Performance Improvement (QAPI) approach

C. difficile is a germ that causes major colon inflammation and deadly diarrhea. This is your opportunity to work with your QIN-QIO and other local and national experts on a QAPI initiative to prevent and reduce *C. difficile* in nursing homes. The initiative will support nursing

home submission of data into the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network

(NHSN) databank, which will provide for analysis and creation of a national baseline for *C. difficile* infections in nursing homes, as well a follow-up measurement period. NHSN provides long-term care (LTC) facilities with a customized system to track infections in a streamlined and systematic way. When facilities track infections, they can identify problems and track

progress toward stopping infections. While 50 states currently report hospital *C. difficile* data into NHSN, only 250 of the country's 15,700 nursing homes currently report *C. difficile* data into NHSN. The April 2013 "Health and Human Services (HHS) National Action Plan to

MORE THAN 100,000
C. difficile INFECTIONS
DEVELOP AMONG
RESIDENTS OF U.S.
NURSING HOMES EACH
YEAR (CDC 2015)

Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs): Road Map to Elimination," chapter on LTC facilities identified *C. difficile* as a priority area for implementation of

reporting to NHSN, evaluating variability in measure, and for obtaining consensus on a meaningful five-year goal. The establishment of a national baseline and subsequent identification of goals are essential for our individual and collective work to improve the quality of care and outcomes for our residents in this area.

C. difficile HARMS RESIDENTS

C. difficile caused almost half a million infections among patients in the U.S. in 2011. More than 80 percent of the deaths associated with *C. difficile* occurred among Americans aged 65 or older. (CDC 2015)

One out of three *C. difficile* infections occurs in patients 65 years or older. (CDC 2015)

One out of nine patients aged 65 or older with a healthcare-associated *C. difficile* infection died within 30 days following their diagnosis. (CDC 2015)

70 percent of *C. difficile* infection-related harm was preventable (Office of Inspector General 2014 report on adverse events in skilled nursing facilities)

Benefits and Expectations of Participation

Prevention of *C. difficile* May 2016–December 2018

Benefits. You will:

- Gain experience and practice in conducting QAPI performance improvement projects.
- Create a culture of resident safety supported by education and training on antibiotic stewardship principles and practices including *C. difficile* management.
- Acquire tools in order to participate in infection surveillance, while learning and using infection control and containment practices.
- Receive education and support to submit data into NHSN and to utilize available reports for surveillance and quality improvement.
- Receive education and support on Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance

Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPS®) LTC communication strategies and techniques to enhance team performance and safety.

- Network with and learn from other experts in your state and the country working together on this initiative.
- Contribute to our national database on the prevalence of *C. difficile*.

Expectations. You will:

- Agree to remain active in this initiative from May 2016 through December 2018.
- Agree to publicly disclose participation in this initiative.
- Form an interdisciplinary team in your organization to utilize a data driven and

proactive approach to quality improvement, identify opportunities for improvement, and address gaps in systems through planned interventions in order to improve quality.

- Identify a team sponsor and a day-to-day leader.
- Enroll the facility in NHSN and register users within the Secure Access Management Services (SAMS).
- Participate in NHSN data training sessions.
- Submit data during all required time periods.
- Participate in other collaborative education sessions, conference calls, or webinars.
- Share data, results, best practices, and lessons learned.

The Federal Register, July 16, 2015, provided a **proposed rule** entitled *Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Reform of Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities*. **This rule proposed to require facilities** to have a system for preventing, identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases.

Participating in this initiative will help you to implement effective infection control and prevention systems.

HAI's such as *C. difficile* often result in considerable suffering for residents in LTC facilities as well as increased costs for the healthcare system.

Participation Agreement

Our facility would like to participate in the Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) National Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative and focus on tracking and preventing *C. difficile* infections. We understand the expectations for this cooperative project and agree to participate fully between **May 2016 and December 2018**. This is a long-term commitment to work on infection control practices. We commit to:

- Remain active in this initiative through December 2018
- Grant permission to HSAG to publicly disclose participation in this initiative
- Form an interdisciplinary team in our organization to utilize a data driven and proactive approach to quality improvement, identify opportunities for improvement, and address gaps in systems through planned interventions in order to improve quality
- Identify a team sponsor and a day-to-day leader
- Enroll the facility in NHSN and register users within the Secure Access Management Services (SAMS)
- Participate in NHSN data training sessions
- Submit data during all required time periods
- Participate in other collaborative education sessions, conference calls, or webinars
- Share data, results, best practices, and lessons learned to contribute to state and national learning in this area. Data is aggregated at the state and national level.

Please Enter Your Nursing Home Facility Name, Provider Number, and Address:

Nursing Home Facility Name:	
Nursing Home Medicare Provider Number (also known as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [CMS] Certification Number [CCN]):	
Nursing Home Address:	

Required Signatures:

Role	Sign and print your name	Date
Executive Leader (e.g., chief executive officer, chief operation officer, administrator, or owner) Note: The executive leader would sign the NHSN consent for participation		
Director of Nursing		

Please return your completed participation agreement by mail, fax, or email by August 31, 2016 to:

FL NNHQCC Team
Health Services Advisory Group, Inc.
3000 Bayport Drive, Suite 300
Tampa, FL 33607
Fax: 813.865.3722 | Phone: 813.865.3191

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Keep a copy of this for your own use.

Contact FL-NNHQCC@hsag.com for more information.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to this important initiative.
**The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS),
Quality Improvement Network-Quality Improvement Organizations (QIN-QIOs) and
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
are working together to provide you with education, tools, and resources to
support you in this QAPI initiative. Your engagement and participation is critical to
help prevent *Clostridium difficile* infections.
Together we can make a difference.

