



**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety & Oversight Group**

**Ref: QSO 18-15-NH**

**DATE:** March 16, 2018

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (*formerly Survey and Certification Group*)

**SUBJECT:** Specialized Infection Prevention and Control Training for Nursing Home Staff in the Long-Term Care Setting

**Memorandum Summary**

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are collaborating on the development of a free on-line training course in infection prevention and control for nursing home staff in the long-term care setting.

**Background**

Healthcare-associated infection (HAIs) can result in considerable harm or death for residents in Long Term Care (LTC) facilities, as well as increased costs for the healthcare system. The revised Requirements for Participation effective November 28, 2016 outlined the specific components of an effective infection control program including a system for preventing, reporting investigating and controlling infections and communicable diseases for residents and staff. These requirements were phased in over a 3-year period. The broader infection control program was effective November 28, 2016. In November 28, 2017, facilities were required to develop an antibiotic stewardship program to combat the growing concern of multi-drug resistant organisms. Phase 3 which includes additional components including specialized training is effective November 28, 2019.

CMS and the CDC recognize that providing specialized infection prevention and control training for long-term care nursing home staff can lead to an increased health benefit to nursing homes residents.

**Specialized Training for Infection Prevention and Control**

CMS and the CDC are collaborating on the development of a training course in infection prevention and control for long-term care nursing home staff. This course will be free of charge and available on-line and on-demand Spring 2019. Completion of this course will provide specialized training in infection prevention and control.

The training is expected to take approximately 16 to 20 hours and a certificate of completion will be provided after successful completion of an online exam. The web address and release date for the training will be provided as soon as possible in a subsequent memo.

The content of the training is expected to cover the following topics:

- Infection prevention and control program overview,
- Infection preventionist responsibilities,
- Quality assessment and assurance committee,
- Infection surveillance,
- Outbreaks,
- Hand hygiene,
- Principles of standard and transmission-based precautions,
- Medication and sharps safety,
- Respiratory etiquette,
- Device and wound management,
- Environmental cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization,
- Vaccine-preventable respiratory infections and tuberculosis,
- Employee and occupational health considerations,
- Linen management,
- Water management,
- Antibiotic stewardship program, and
- Infection prevention and antibiotic stewardship considerations during care transitions.

**Contact:** If you have questions concerning this memorandum, please send them to [NHSurveyDevelopment@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NHSurveyDevelopment@cms.hhs.gov).

**Effective Date:** This information should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

David R. Wright

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management