To whom it may concern,

The New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA)’s Institute for Quality and Patient Safety is pleased to submit this letter demonstrating our commitment to working with member hospitals to improve antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASP) and associated patient outcomes. Through our work as the New Jersey Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (NJHIIN), the vehicle which will drive improvement in antibiotic stewardship and *C. difficile* prevention, is the three-year NJHA Antimicrobial Stewardship Learning and Action Collaborative. The mission of the collaborative is to promote the use of the appropriate agent, dose, duration, and route of administration of antimicrobial agents both in the acute care and post-acute care setting in order to improve quality of patient care and patient safety while reducing excessive costs.

To have the greatest impact reducing harm due to misuse of antimicrobials, organizations must work collaboratively. Participants are expected to share successes, challenges, experiences and ideas during all facilitated events such as face-to-face meetings, calls and webinars. Senior leadership support and multidisciplinary team involvement is required.

Through this work, teams are expected to successfully implement the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) seven core elements of antimicrobial stewardship:

- Leadership Commitment
- Accountability
- Drug Expertise
- Action
- Tracking
- Reporting
- Education

Based on the needs of the organizations, participants will be expected to assess and implement antimicrobial stewardship interventions through a progressive tiered approach, modeled after the seven core elements and the National Quality Form’s *Antibiotic Stewardship in Acute Care: A Practical Playbook.*

Improvements are measured through hospital-level reporting of antibiotic use and healthcare onset *C. difficile* rates.

1. **Outcome measure:**
   - Healthcare Facility-Onset *C. difficile*

2. **Process measure:**
• Assessment of Current Antimicrobial Stewardship Practice – rate of core antimicrobial stewardship elements met

3. Antibiotic usage measures:
   • Primary measure: Total Days of Therapy
   • Secondary measure: Defined Daily Dose

Collaborative goals:
   • By the end of 2019 the collaborative participants will demonstrate 100 percent implementation of all seven CDC core elements of antibiotic stewardship.
   • Participants will establish a statewide baseline antimicrobial use rate.

NJHA is committed to improving antimicrobial stewardship within the state and beyond. In addition, NJHA gives permission to summarize our commitments, share the summaries online and make our commitment letter available on request.

Sincerely,

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