

July 21, 2016



To: Nursing homes active in NHSN

You are receiving this email because your nursing home or skilled nursing facility is currently active or previously enrolled in the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). As you know, when your facility tracks infections, you can identify opportunities and monitor progress toward stopping infections. The NHSN provides long-term care facilities with a customized system to track infections in a streamlined and systematic way.

CDC in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) wants to make you aware of an opportunity to work with local and national experts on a resident safety initiative to report and reduce *C. difficile* infections (CDI) in nursing homes. Whether your facility is already reporting CDI into NHSN or not, you may benefit from being involved in this exciting effort.

By participating in this initiative, 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
- Receive education and support to submit data into NHSN and utilize analysis tools for quality improvement
- Receive education and support on TeamSTEPPS 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 setting a national baseline on the burden of CDI in nursing homes

Because of your current or previous engagement in the NHSN, your facility may receive an invitation to participate in this CDI reporting and reduction initiative which is a part of the National Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact your local Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO). If you are unsure who to contact, please see the map on the QIO Program website at <http://qioprogram.org/contact-zones?map=qin> which will list a phone number. Simply ask for the Nursing Home lead and tell them you are interested in information on the *C. difficile* project - National Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative.

By joining this initiative, you are joining thousands of facilities who are supporting the April 2013 HHS National Action Plan To Prevent Health Care-Associated Infections.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the lives of those who live in America's nursing homes.

