



## Highlighting ACE Updates, Best Practices, Resources, Tools, and Upcoming Events

### ACE Updates

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#### **ACE Quarterly Data Reports**

All ACE facilities enrolled by September 30, 2016 should have received two copies of their most recent ACE Quarterly Data Report in the mail in early October. Please let us know if we can help you use the data to identify potential areas for improvement in your quality program. Remember, data drives quality improvement. Your report contains Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) tools and resources to assist you in this activity. If you have not received your copy, please let us know at [scace@thecarolinascenter.org](mailto:scace@thecarolinascenter.org).

#### **ACE Initiative for *C. difficile* Infection (CDI) and Antibiotic Stewardship (ABS)**

The ACE facilities participating in the national pilot to report CDI in long-term care have been working steadily to attain security clearance to enter data into the CDC website. Weekly group calls have been held in October to focus on the enrollment process and initiate reporting events or data. Those participating in the call have the opportunity to ask questions and share successes or best practices with their peers.

Pilot homes began tracking cases October 1 and will enter their first data directly into NHSN (National Healthcare Safety Network – <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/>) at month's end. Data entered for ten consecutive months will be used to track and compare CDI cases across regions, the state, and the nation. All ACE facilities will be updated of progress throughout the pilot. You can view ACE webinars on the CDI initiative and ABS on the ACE website at <http://atlanticquality.org/initiatives/nursing-home-quality/nursing-home-quality-sc/presentations-and-handouts/>. These webinars include information on CDI including etiology and treatment as well as infection control and prevention practices.

# ACE Best Practices

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## ACE Best Practice Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

For the October 20th ACE Best Practice Lunch and Learn webinar, the team from Mullins Nursing Center presented on their approach to reducing rehospitalizations through the use of INTERACT. Currently, their goal is to safely reduce the number of hospital readmissions within 30 days to 10%. Mullins uses an innovative CNA peer training program for the use of Stop and Watch, SBAR Communication, and Safety Huddles.

Angie Harps, CNA Lead, discussed Mullins' training program, which includes role-playing to instruct and assess a CNA's or nurses' proficiency in the use of these tools. Ms. Harps noted that the program had resulted in catching changes in resident condition before it progressed. She feels the program has had a beneficial impact on care in the facility while improving the morale and confidence of the CNAs. Tonya Martin, Administrator, discussed Mullins Nursing Center's collaboration with their local hospital's Quality Manager to reduce readmissions. This collaboration has included the hospitalist having additional discussions with residents and/or their families about advanced care planning as a means of defining care preferences while improving quality of life.

View the recorded webinar on the ACE website at

<http://atlanticquality.org/initiatives/nursing-home-quality/nursing-home-quality-sc/presentations-and-handouts/>.

## November 14-20, 2016 the CDC Celebrates Get Smart about Antibiotics Week! (Press Release)

Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria change in a way that reduces the effectiveness of antibiotics and poses one of the most pressing public health threats. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with a league of national and international partners, will observe the ninth annual **Get Smart About Antibiotics Week** from November 14-20. During this week, participants will raise awareness of the threat of antibiotic resistance and emphasize the importance of appropriate antibiotic use across all health care settings.

Antibiotic use is the single most important contributing factor to antibiotic resistance, and up to one-third to one-half of antibiotic use in humans is either unnecessary or inappropriate. Each year in the United States, 47 million unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions are written in doctors' offices, emergency rooms, and hospital-based clinics, which makes improving antibiotic prescribing and use a national priority. To combat antibiotic resistance and avoid adverse drug reactions, we have to use antibiotics appropriately. This means using antibiotics only when needed and, if needed, using them correctly.

"Antibiotics are critical adjuncts to modern medicine and make it possible to perform surgery and provide medical treatment for a variety of serious illnesses," said Dr. Lauri Hicks, Director for CDC's Office of Antibiotic Stewardship. "Alarming, we are facing the end of the antibiotic era because antibiotics are being inappropriately prescribed and used, which contributes to antibiotic resistance. That's why it is crucial that antibiotics are used

only when absolutely necessary; and when they are needed, the correct antibiotic must be prescribed in a timely manner at the right dose and duration."

**Get Smart About Antibiotics** website (<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/week/index.html>) includes educational resources for use with staff, residents, and their families. The CDC has The Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes (<http://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/prevention/antibiotic-stewardship.html>) which has practical ways to initiate or expand an antibiotic stewardship program. This includes a Resource for Tracking Antibiotic Stewardship Activities which can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/pdfs/core-elements-antibiotic-stewardship-appendix-b.pdf>.

## CMS Updates

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### **CMS Revisions to the Long Term Care Facilities Requirements of Participation have been finalized.**

You may be aware that the requirements of participation for LTC Facilities were finalized on September 28, 2016. These are the first major revisions since 1991 and are effective on November 28, 2016. There will be three phases of implementation. Please refer to the final rule at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/10/04/2016-23503/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-reform-of-requirements-for-long-term-care-facilities> for the federal health and safety standards requirements. Of interest are pages 180-182, which discuss QAPI and infection control.

On October 27, 2016, A CMS National Provider call was held titled, Long-Term Care Facilities: Reform of Requirements. You may access the slides and recording here: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/National-Provider-Calls-and-Events-Items/2016-10-27-LTC.html?DLPage=1&DLEntries=10&DLSort=0&DLSortDir=descending>

### **Remember to Submit Your Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) Data**

The Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) System went into effect on July 1, 2016. Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are required to collect direct care staffing and census data for each fiscal quarter. First quarter data under this mandatory reporting system will be submitted for July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016. The deadline to submit reports to CMS is November 14, 2016. CMS reported during the SNF/LTC Open Door Forum call on October 6, 2016, that they are not expecting perfect data, but do expect all nursing homes to submit their data.

For additional information and resources, visit the CMS Staffing Data Submission PBJ website at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Staffing-Data-Submission-PBJ.html>.

# Upcoming Events

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## **The Best Practice Lunch & Learn Webinar Series is on Holiday Hiatus.**

Our best practices webinar series will be taking a short break during the upcoming holiday season. We'll see you in early 2017 with informative presentations from healthcare providers on a wide range of topics across healthcare settings. Have a topic you'd like to suggest? Are you a facility that has a best practice that's resulted in success that you'd like to share? Please contact us as [scace@thecarolinascenter.org](mailto:scace@thecarolinascenter.org).

## **National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes Call – December 6**

The MLN Connects® National Provider Call hosted call is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Visit MLN National Provider Calls & Events to register (<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/National-Provider-Calls-and-Events.html>) when the link becomes available.

**To ensure delivery of data and ACE updates, please add [scace@thecarolinascenter.org](mailto:scace@thecarolinascenter.org) to your email address book. Make sure that the person responsible for your computer security adds this address to a "white list" of allowed senders.**

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