



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

ACE Updates

Your Survey... The sixth most cited deficiency in SC...

Infection Control has landed D, E and F severity ratings across the state linked to poor surveillance practices and inability to successfully manage C. difficile infections (CDI). Studies indicate that 70% of all CDI-related harm in nursing homes is preventable, and it is an important and pressing health issue that is being addressed nationally.

In community and health care settings, ACE is committed to working with our care partners to improve CDI management and prevention.

There are four major challenges:

1. Ensuring accurate CDI reporting from nursing homes, hospitals, and community practices. Since a baseline rate for CDI in nursing homes has not been established, this will require a committed partnership with the NHSN data reporting system for monthly entry of new lab identified cases.
2. Identifying at-risk residents and treating them rapidly using evidence-based clinical guidelines
3. Improving infection control surveillance processes
4. Using antibiotic stewardship to prevent overuse and misuse of antibiotics

Our CCME team along with all state QIOs are looking for nursing homes to join this new CDI initiative which not only includes free, intensive support and training, but

also membership in NHSN's reporting system at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure accurate tracking and a CDI reduction in our state. Even if your nursing home sees very little CDI, your facility can play a very personal and important role in minimizing this potentially fatal clinical condition.

More on the CDI initiative is coming soon. If you are interested in joining, please contact us at scace@thecarolinascenter.org.

In the meantime, you may find this introductory article on CDI and antibiotic stewardship helpful: http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/845534#vp_2

Best Practices

Environmental Controls in Infection Prevention...CDI and Other Easily Transmittable Infections

It's not just CDI, but nursing homes must be vigilant of other bugs that can have a detrimental effect on our fragile residents. Some studies have noted that overlooked things like thorough cleaning of bedside commodes and mattresses and the use of incorrect cleaning solutions have been sources linked to infections, along with ineffective handwashing practices by all employees. Check your infection control protocols and ensure your practices are not only up-to-date but are carried out consistently. This is an excellent quality improvement project for all nursing homes. The following CDC links will help you examine all parts of your infection control program and also direct you in creating a QAPI Performance Improvement Project (PIP) to address identified areas that need improvement.

https://www.nhqualitycampaign.org/files/EnvironmentalCleaning_Assessment.pdf

https://www.nhqualitycampaign.org/files/HandHygiene_Assessment.pdf

Unsure how to get started in developing your QAPI process? Our ACE website has a variety of information including processes and tools to help you succeed:

<http://atlanticquality.org/initiatives/nursing-home-quality/nursing-home-quality-sc/qi-qapi/>

We are here to help you get started as well. Contact a quality specialist at scace@thecarolinascenter.org.

**** QAPI Self-Assessment Reminder ****

If you haven't done so already, remember to enter and update your QAPI Self-Assessment at <https://isweb.ipro.org/qapi/sc/>.

Upcoming Events

- **Eden Alternative Coalition: *Creating a Culture of Person-Directed Dementia Care***

Time is running out to register for the January 21-22 Eden Alternative Conference, *Creating a Culture of Person-Centered Dementia Care*. This free two-day conference is an excellent opportunity to hear the latest national guidelines for improving dementia care in nursing homes from Dr. Al Power, the award-winning geriatrician and author of *Dementia Beyond Drugs*.

This is a great opportunity and we are very lucky to be one of only five states to receive this training opportunity at no cost to providers.

Sign up today because registration is already 85% full and space is limited. Two people from each facility may attend.

For more details and to register, please visit <https://2dff35.campgn4.com/National-Grant--South-Carolina>.

- **Webinar Series: INTERACT Implementation Learning in Action Series**

This free one-hour monthly webinar continues and is a great opportunity for your staff to learn and discuss INTERACT tools and methods to reduce hospital readmissions. All staff members in your facility are welcome to attend.

The next webinar is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2016 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and focuses on the Stop and Watch Tool. You may register here: <https://qualitynet.webex.com/mw3000/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=qualitynet>

You can access the previous webinars here: <http://atlanticquality.org/initiatives/care-coordination/care-%20%20coordination-sc/>

- **Falling Stars, Falling Leaves, Falling Residents ...New Solutions for a Continual Challenge**

Yes, there is something new to learn about falls management and we invite you to join our webinar series. These free monthly webinars include a brief presentation followed by a case discussion with the participants. For 30 minutes, your staff can learn about new tools and discuss challenging cases. We not only encourage you to participate, but

also to gather key caregivers around the computer to share in the information and hold your own discussion on challenging residents in your community.

The webinars will be on Wednesdays from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Watch for the e-flyer coming your way with more details and registration information.

***** SAVE THE DATE *****

**ACE Learning Session III
Effective Leadership Skills and Systems at All Levels – Third Key to Success
March 1, 2, and 3, 2016**

Rescheduled to accommodate the Eden Alternative Conference, our third program is a wonderful chance to enhance leadership skills for charge nurses. The program also addresses how data collected from your own facility can drive improvements and showcase achievements.

Objectives:

- Build positive chain of care by strengthening leadership skills especially among charge nurses
- Utilize CASPER data to drive improvements, reduce costs, and improve your competitive advantage
- Integrate QAPI into day-to-day operations

Watch for more information coming your way on location and registration for our next learning session.

Resources Needed

Tell us about your success!

If your nursing home has an innovative program or initiative, we want to hear about it and share it with our ACE facilities. We will introduce it in the newsletter, and include it in more detail on our website toolbox. For more information or to submit an idea, please call Marilee Mohr at (803) 212-7517.

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