



AHRQ Safety Program for Long-Term Care: CAUTI

Why is this Important?

Research tells us that the rate of HAIs in LTCF residents is between one to three million annually. This contributes to nearly 400,000 deaths per year. In addition, re-hospitalizations from LTCFs are increasing, with urinary tract infections (UTIs) being the second most common reason. This program emphasizes evidence-based infection prevention practice and antibiotic stewardship to help eliminate CAUTI, *C. difficile* and multiple-drug resistant organisms (MDROs).

What's in it for the Facility and Residents?

- Reduced morbidity and mortality from CAUTI infections through improved infection prevention practices
- Reduced morbidity and mortality from *C. difficile* and other MDROs through appropriate antibiotic prescribing
- Reduced staff burden of admitting, readmitting and caring for residents with infections
- Improved safety culture through enhanced teamwork and communication

What's in it for the Facility Owner, Management and Staff?

- Quality improvement and infection prevention technical assistance
- Reduced readmissions and improved relations with hospital referral partners
- Alignment with CMS requirements
- Reduced state and federal penalties for infection prevention lapses
- Ability to benchmark performance against other LTCFs
- Higher census from reduced mortality and hospitalizations
- Reduced workload for caring for infected residents, including the burden of admitting and readmitting
- Reduced cost and staff burden of providing ineffective care
- Improved facility's safety culture through better teamwork and communication
 - Improved resident and family satisfaction
 - Alignment with important quality improvement initiatives such as Advancing Excellence
 - Prestige of being engaged in national infection prevention and resident safety project

Who is Eligible?

Long-term care facilities that address both short-stay residents (SNFs) and long-stay residents (nursing homes) are eligible.

What are the Expectations for Participating Facilities?

- Participation in content and coaching teleconferences
- Compliance with data collection and submission requirements:
 - Outcome measure: CAUTI rates
 - One or two process measures may be required for infection prevention skills training and evidence-based practice compliance checklist
 - Culture measure: AHRQ's Nursing Home Survey on Patient Safety
 - Active leadership support for:
 - Staff participation in free coaching sessions and educational sessions
 - Staff implementation of infection prevention and safety culture improvement tools
 - Data collection and reporting
 - Prioritization of infection prevention, including CAUTI and overall UTI prevention within the framework of preventing all HAIs including *C. difficile*

Who is Leading this Effort?

The program is being led by Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET). HRET and its partners are developing and implementing an infection prevention and safety program to support long-term care facilities in adopting evidence-based infection prevention practices. Participating facilities will also learn how to use teamwork and communication tools to improve safety culture in their institutions.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is funding this national long term care (LTC) safety program to reduce Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) and other healthcare acquired infections (HAIs) in long-term care facilities (LTCFs) across the country.

**Interested in enrolling or learning more?
Contact ltsafety@aha.org**