



C. DIFFICILE HARMS RESIDENTS

C. difficile caused almost half a million infections among patients in the US in 2011. More than 80% of the deaths associated with *C. difficile* occurred among Americans aged 65 or older. (CDC 2015)



1 out of 3 *C. difficile* infections occurs in patients 65 years or older. (CDC 2015)



1 out of 9 patients aged 65 or older with a healthcare-associated *C. difficile* infection died within 30 days following their diagnosis. (CDC 2015)



70% of *C. difficile* infection-related harm was preventable (OIG 2014 report on adverse events in SNFs)

C. difficile is a germ that causes major colon inflammation and deadly diarrhea. This is your opportunity to work with your QIN-QIO and other local and national experts on a QAPI initiative to prevent and reduce *C. difficile* in nursing homes. The initiative will support nursing home submission of data into the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) databank which will provide for analysis and creation of a database for *C. difficile* infections in nursing homes. NHSN provides LTC facilities with a customized system to track infections in a streamlined and systematic way. When facilities track infections, they can identify problems and track progress toward stopping infections.

Benefits and Expectations of Participation

Benefits: 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
- Acquire tools in order to participate in infection surveillance, while learning and using infection control and containment practices
- Receive education and support to submit data into NHSN and to utilize available reports for surveillance and 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 our national database on the prevalence of *C. difficile*

Expectations: You will

- Agree to remain active in this initiative through July 2019
- Agree to publicly disclose participation in this initiative
- Form an interdisciplinary team in your organization to utilize a data driven and proactive approach to quality improvement, identify opportunities for improvement, and address gaps in systems through planned interventions in order to improve quality
- Identify a team sponsor and a day-to-day leader
- Enroll the facility in NHSN and register users within the Secure Access Management Services (SAMS)
- Participate in NHSN data training sessions
- Submit data during all required time periods (monthly through July 2019)
- Participate in other collaborative education sessions, conference calls or webinars
- Share data, results, best practices and lessons learned (including granting rights to your NHSN data to your QIN-QIO and the QIN-QIO National Coordinating Center) to contribute to state and national learning in this area

For more information, email to:

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