

C. difficile Prevention Partnership Collaborative: program description and expectations

We are pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is one of only 12 states selected to receive a grant through the Health Care Reform Act to extend our current infection prevention efforts with Massachusetts hospitals to include long term care settings, and improvement teams that represent cross-continuum partnerships. The Massachusetts Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors will be leading this work in partnership with Massachusetts Senior Care Foundation.

Acute care hospitals and long term care facilities alike are impacted by growing rates of *C. difficile* and its potentially deadly consequences for patients. No one institution can solve this problem alone, as patient transfers between facilities are an important contributor to the spread of *C. difficile*. We hope that you and your colleagues will join us in this groundbreaking collaborative to improve infection prevention and patient outcomes across the state.

SOME DETAILS

- This new piece of work is currently projected to run from Sept 2011 through July 2012.
- The focus of the collaborative is *C. difficile* prevention and improvement in optimal infection prevention practices, including antibiotic stewardship;
- We are recruiting up to 25 hospitals to partner with their high volume long term care facilities;
- Multidisciplinary teams from hospitals and long term care facilities working together;
- Coaching opportunities between hospital and long term care staff;
- Two statewide meetings (November 15, 2011* and April 2012) to learn from experts and learn and share with your colleagues;
- Regional sessions for learning closer to home;
- Antibiotic stewardship programming for physicians and pharmacists in long term care settings;
- Training in successful strategies to promote front-line staff engagement to enhance team success;
- Brief reporting for learning and sharing;
- A limited measurement set within a simple Excel workbook to track improvement

EXPECTATIONS

Participation

Collaborative activities will include both planned events and as-needed coaching

- Hospitals will identify at least 3 partner long term care facilities (LTCFs). Assistance in recruiting partner organizations will be provided if desired by the Massachusetts Senior Care Foundation.
- Each participating facility (acute and long term care) will form a multidisciplinary team including some or all of the following: infection prevention, nursing, certified nursing assistants, quality improvement, education & training, environmental services, infectious disease, pharmacy, microbiology.
- Teams or appropriate colleagues will plan to attend the following events:
 - Kickoff team call (mid October)
 - Call for long term care leaders (late October)
 - Full day team learning session* (November 15, 2011 Westborough MA)
 - Half day regional workshops (January and April, 2012)

- Antibiotic stewardship programming (TBD)
- Teams from partner organizations will actively seek opportunities to share expertise and strategies between collaborative events.

**This meeting will be held in conjunction with the final learning session for the ongoing CDI Prevention Collaborative.*

Measurement and Reporting

A requirement of the Healthcare Reform Act funding is that we document measures of effectiveness.

- Hospitals will track coaching opportunities with long term care partners
- Long term care facility teams will track and provide bi-monthly (every 2 months) summaries of activities and changes made
- Hospitals will track *C. difficile infection* rates and admissions from partner LTCFs with a diagnosis of *C. difficile* or sequellae
- Long term care facilities will track *C. difficile* infection rates and admission of residents to all partner hospitals with a diagnosis of *C. difficile* or sequellae
- Teams may choose to track other processes, such as hand hygiene rates, environmental cleaning, or compliance with isolation and precautions recommendations.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER MASSACHUSETTS IMPROVEMENT WORK

Many hospital and long term care facilities are already engaged in improvement initiatives in infection prevention and /or care transitions (STAAR), with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors, MHA or others. We have designed this opportunity to help you coordinate with and leverage this work and not duplicate efforts.

You may have also received an invitation from Masspro to enroll in their upcoming HAI prevention learning collaboratives including *C. diff.* prevention. We wanted to clarify that the *C. diff.* prevention initiative described above would be the activity addressing this infection through 2012, with Masspro as one of the partnering organizations; and they will offer additional *C.difficile* prevention opportunities in the following years.

MORE QUESTIONS?

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