Clostridium *Difficile* Initiative

South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care, as part of the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN), and South Dakota Department of Health Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program invites you to join the effort to prevent Clostridium *Difficile* in nursing homes

*C. difficile* harms residents.

It has 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 skilled nursing facilities)

More than 100,000 *C. difficile* infections develop among residents of U.S. nursing homes each year. (CDC 2015)

*Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) is a germ that causes major colon inflammation and deadly diarrhea. This is your opportunity to work with state and national experts on a Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI) initiative to prevent and reduce *C. difficile* in nursing homes. The initiative will support nursing home submission of data into CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) databank, which will provide for analysis and creation of a national baseline for *C. difficile* infections in nursing homes. NHSN provides long term care (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.

While 50 states currently report hospital *C. difficile* data into NHSN, only 250 of the country’s 15,700 nursing homes currently report *C. difficile* data into NHSN. The April 2013 “HHS National Action Plan to Prevent Health Care-Associated Infections (HAIs): Road Map to Elimination” chapter on LTC facilities identified *C. difficile* as a priority area for implementation of reporting to NHSN, evaluating variability in measure, and for obtaining consensus on a meaningful five-year goal. The establishment of a national baseline and subsequent identification of goals are essential for individual and collective work to improve the quality of care and outcomes for our residents in this area.
Clostridium *Difficile* Initiative

May 2016 – December 2018

**Benefits of Participation**

- Gain experience and practice in conducting QAPI performance improvement projects
- Receive education and support on:
  - Antibiotic stewardship principles and practices, including *C. difficile* management
  - Ways to improve communication of infectious disease status during inter-facility transfer of residents
  - Submitting data into NHSN and to utilize available reports for surveillance and quality improvement
  - TeamSTEPPS LTC communication strategies and techniques to enhance team performance and safety
- Acquire tools to participate in infection surveillance, while learning and using infection control and containment practices
- Have access to one-on-one consultation with infection prevention staff to tailor resources and tools to your needs, which includes a facility infection prevention assessment
- Contribute to the national database on the prevalence of *C. difficile*

There is no cost to you to participate. South Dakota Great Plains QIN and South Dakota DOH HAI Office will absorb education and training costs.

**Expectations of Participation**

- Agree to join the Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative if not already participating
- Agree to remain active in this initiative from May 2016 through December 2018
- Agree to allow SD Great Plains QIN and SD Department of Health HAI Program to publically disclose your participation
- Form an interdisciplinary team in your organization to utilize a data-driven and proactive approach to quality improvement
- Identify a team sponsor and a day-to-day leader
- Participate in an Infection Control Assessment conducted by the SD Department of Health HAI Program
- 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
- 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, the QIN-QIO National Coordinating Center, and the South Dakota DOH HAI Program) to contribute to state and national learning in this area
PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Our facility would like to participate in the Great Plains QIN National Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative and work with the Great Plains QIN and South Dakota Department of Health HAI Program to track and prevent *C. difficile* infections. We understand the expectations for this cooperative project and agree to participate fully between **May 2016 and December 2018**. This is a long-term commitment to work on infection control practices. We commit to:

- Remain active in this initiative from May 2016 through December 2018
- Grant permission to Great Plains QIN to publicly disclose participation in this initiative
- Form an interdisciplinary team in our 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
- Participate in other collaborative education sessions, conference calls, or webinars
- Share data, results, best practices, and lessons learned to contribute to state and national learning in this area. Data is aggregated at the state and national levels.

**Please enter your nursing facility name, provider number and address:**

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<tr>
<th>Nursing Home Name:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Home Medicare Provider Number (also known as the CMS Certification Number [CCN]):</td>
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<td>Nursing Home Address:</td>
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2600 West 49th Street, Suite 300  │  Sioux Falls, SD 57105  │  P: 605.336.3505  │  F: 605.373.0580

*Serving Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota*
*Required signatures:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Sign and print your name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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<td>*Executive Leader (Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Officer, Administrator, or Owner) Note: the Executive Leader would sign the NHSN consent for participation</td>
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<td>*Director of Nursing</td>
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<td>Infection Control Leader/Team Leader (if available)</td>
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Please return your completed Participation Agreement to Lori Hintz (lori.hintz@area-a.hcqis.org) or fax to 605-373-0580. Keep a copy of the Agreement for your records.

Great Plains QIN Contacts
Lori Hintz lori.hintz@area-a.hcqis.org
Nancy McDonald nancy.mcdonald@area-a.hcqis.org
Lori Murphy lori.murphy@area-a.hcqis.org

South Dakota Department of Health Health Associated Infection Program Contacts
Angela Jackley angela.jackley@state.sd.us
Kipp Stahl kipp.stahl@state.sd.us

Thank you in advance for your commitment to this important initiative.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
Great Plains Quality Innovation Network, and
South Dakota Department of Health Healthcare-Associated Infections Program

are working together to provide you with education, tools and resources
to support you in this QAPI initiative. Your engagement and participation
is critical to help prevent Clostridium difficile infection.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

This material was prepared by the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 11SOW-GPQIN-SD-C2-130/8316

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