

Office of Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 12-31-HAI

DATE: May 18, 2012

TO: State Survey Agency Directors and
HAI Prevention Coordinators

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Environmental Scan of State Survey Agency Training Coordinators and
Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Coordinators Nursing Home HAI
Prevention programs

Memorandum Summary

- **Notification:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will conduct a Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program Environmental Scan of State Survey Agency Training Coordinators and State HAI Coordinators.
- **State Selection:** All states except those already contacted during pilot
- **Effective Date:** The environmental scan will begin in May 2012.

The CMS seeks to identify current State Health Department and State Survey Agency HAI prevention programs for nursing homes by conducting an environmental scan of current state programs. This environmental scan has been developed with technical support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our goal is to determine how the current nursing home HAI prevention programs operate and learn from the states' experiences to identify promising practices that could be shared with other state programs and help inform the development of a national infection prevention program for nursing homes.

CMS has completed a pilot of the interview instrument with the following seven randomly selected States: Nebraska, Washington, Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, Colorado and Massachusetts. Thanks to the participation of these states, we have been able to modify the instrument to improve the information gathered. Now we are planning to expand the environmental scan to all states.

By the end of May, each State Survey Agency and State HAI coordinator will receive a call from our contractor Training Development Program Management (TDP), LLC to complete the environmental scan questionnaire. We will provide a copy of the questionnaire in advance of the calls. We anticipate completing the full environmental scan of all States and U.S. Territories by late summer 2012.

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While participation is optional, we greatly appreciate your assistance with this very important project by sharing information about your programs for infection prevention in nursing homes.

Thank you for your cooperation, we appreciate your input.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding this memorandum to Debra Spears at debra.spears@cms.hhs.gov.

/s/
Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management