



**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety & Oversight Group**

**Ref: QSO-19-10-NH**

**DATE:** March 11, 2019

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group

**SUBJECT:** Specialized Infection Prevention and Control Training for Nursing Home Staff in the Long-Term Care Setting is Now Available

**Memorandum Summary**

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborated on the development of a free on-line training course in infection prevention and control for nursing home staff in the long-term care setting.
- The training provides approximately 19 hours of continuing education credits as well as a certificate of completion.
- The "Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course" is located on CDC's TRAIN website ([https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training\\_plan/3814](https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training_plan/3814)).
- **This memo supersedes memo Quality, Safety & Oversight policy memorandum QSO 18-15-NH.**

**Background**

Healthcare-associated infections can result in considerable harm or death for residents in long-term care facilities and increased costs for the healthcare system. Growing concerns over infection control issues in facilities led to the revised requirements for participation. These requirements were phased in over a 3-year period. The broader infection prevention and control program was effective November 28, 2016, and outlined the specific components of an effective infection prevention and control program (IPCP) including a system for preventing, identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases for residents and staff. By November 28, 2017, facilities were required to develop an antibiotic stewardship program to combat the growing concern of multi-drug resistant organisms. Effective November 28, 2019, the final requirement includes specialized training in infection prevention and control for the individual(s) responsible for the facility's IPCP.

**Specialized Training for Infection Prevention and Control**

CMS and the CDC collaborated on the development of a free on-line training course in infection prevention and control for nursing home staff. The course includes information about the core

activities of an infection prevention and control program, with a detailed explanation of recommended practices to prevent pathogen transmission and reduce healthcare-associated infections and antibiotic resistance in nursing homes. Additionally, this course provides helpful implementation resources (e.g., training tools, checklists, signs, and policy and procedure templates). The course is approximately 19 hours long and is made up of 23 modules and submodules. The modules can be completed at any time, in any order, and over multiple sessions, depending on the learner's schedule. In order to receive continuing education for the course and a certificate of completion, learners must complete all modules and pass a post-course exam. The "Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course" is available on CDC's TRAIN website ([https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training\\_plan/3814](https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training_plan/3814)). Completion of this course will provide specialized training in infection prevention and control.

The content of the training covers the following topics:

- Infection prevention and control program overview,
- Infection preventionist responsibilities,
- Quality assessment and performance improvement integration,
- Infection surveillance,
- Outbreaks,
- Principles of standard precautions,
- Principles of transmission-based precautions,
- Hand hygiene,
- Injection safety,
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette,
- Device (i.e., indwelling urinary and central venous catheters) and wound management,
- Point-of-care blood testing,
- Reprocessing reusable resident care equipment,
- Environmental cleaning,
- Water management program,
- Linen management,
- Preventing respiratory infections,
- Tuberculosis prevention,
- Occupational health considerations,
- Antibiotic stewardship, and
- Care transitions.

The content of this course is not regulatory and was developed to inform and educate nursing homes in infection prevention and control best practices, however it does not guarantee compliance with the requirements of infection control within current regulations.

**Contact:** If you have questions concerning this memorandum, please send them to [DNH\\_TriageTeam@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:DNH_TriageTeam@cms.hhs.gov) with the subject line "Infection Control/QSO-19-10-NH."

**Effective Date:** This information should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/  
Karen Tritz  
Acting Director

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management