



# INDIANA HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION NEWSLETTER

Indiana Healthcare  
Associated  
Infection Initiative  
Newsletter  
Issue 10-03: May 4, 2010

In Today's Issue:

- WHO Hand Hygiene Initiative
- HAI Invitation to Participate
- HAI Questions and Answers
- Coming Events

## WHO to Launch Second Global Hand Hygiene Initiative

The World Health Organizations (WHO) will launch its second SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign on May 5. The aim is to improve hand hygiene compliance globally in order to improve patient safety. The WHO has two new tools for hand hygiene improvement: the Global Observation Survey and the Hand Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework. The WHO encourages use of these two new tools to spur evaluation and action at your facility. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Indiana Healthcare Associated Infection Initiative Invitation to Participate

The deadline is May 14, 2010 for applications to participate in the Indiana Healthcare Associated Infections Initiative.

On March 2, 2010, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) kicked off the Indiana Healthcare Associated Infection Initiative with the ISDH Healthcare Leadership Conference attended by 1,208 individuals from health care facilities across the state. The Initiative is part of the national effort by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to prevent healthcare associated infections.

The Indiana Healthcare Associated Infection Initiative is a collaborative effort of providers, consumer advocates, health care quality improvement organizations and state surveyors. The Initiative will provide participants with toolkits, education, training and technical assistance with a goal of reducing the number of infections in hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies and hospices throughout the state.

We invite you to join us in this exciting initiative! The collaborative team is committed to and envisions a dramatic decrease in the number of infections through the implementation of this 15-month quality improvement initiative. At least 80 health care facilities throughout the state will be selected to participate in this initial project. For more details, please see the enclosed [Invitation and Overview](#).

If your facility is interested in participating, please complete the enclosed [Acceptance Form and Letter of Application](#) and FAX to Lidia Dubicki at the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging and Community at (888) 841-0479 (alternate FAX (317) 791-5945) by May 14, 2010.

Thank you for your interest in the Indiana Healthcare Associated Infection Initiative. The ISDH, University of Indianapolis Center for Aging and Community, and the Healthcare Associated Infection Collaborative Team look forward to working with you as Indiana strives to prevent healthcare associated infections.

## Questions and Answers About Initiative

The ISDH has received several questions about the Indiana Healthcare Associated Infection Initiative. To assist you in learning about the Initiative, the following are a few of the most frequently asked questions.

Question: Are participants required to send a five-member team to the initiative events or can a smaller team be sent? That is a large number of staff to be gone at one time from the facility.

ANSWER: The five-member team is not set in stone nor a magic number. The Collaborative Team for the Initiative suggested a five-person team from each facility or agency comprised of staff with a variety of responsibilities. The intent is to have a participating team that will carry information back to their facility or agency and serve as facilitators in implementing improvements in their respective areas. While a five-person team is not a requirement, an initiative of this scope is not a one-person project. A facility or agency is expected commit adequate resources to support and implement improvements in their infection prevention system.

Our experience during the Indiana Pressure Ulcer Initiative was that including different interests on the participant team contributed significantly to the facility's success in the initiative. Having several participants also allows for some erosion of the team over the course of the 15-month initiative resulting from changes in personnel. For participants having to travel longer distances to initiative events, a four-person team might better facilitate travel logistics.

In organizing the initiative, we are planning to be able to accommodate up to five-person teams from each participating facility or agency at initiative events. Preference will likely be given to proposed participant teams with a plan for including a broad range of participants. The Initiative is designed to provide participating facilities with several in-person learning and discussion opportunities that assists providers in implementing infection prevention systems at multiple levels. The events are good opportunities for facilities to obtain education without extensive cost so we wanted to allow for several individuals from each participating facility.

Question: What is the time and resources needed to participate in the initiative? We would like to participate but need to know some details before committing.

ANSWER: Facilities should think in terms of off-site educational programs for the participating team and facility-based activities to implement improvements. In terms of in-person education programs, the facility's team will attend three one-day learning and discussion sessions (probably October 2010, April 2011, and September 2011) for the facility's team. For at least the first two learning sessions, participating facilities will be divided into probably four regions. The participating teams will then attend the learning session in their region. There will likely be regional sessions in northwest, northeast, central, and southern Indiana with about 20-25 participating teams at each regional site. In terms of time commitment, those events will be the only events that will require attendance of the team away from the facility.

Participating facilities and agencies are expected to implement activities directed at preventing infections. This will require coordination of facility prevention activities and systems, providing educational programs to staff, and gathering data. As with any quality improvement program, participants will benefit to the extent that they actively participate.

Question: How many trips to Indianapolis will be required to participate in the initiative?

ANSWER: The facility's team will only need to make one trip to Indianapolis. At the end of the initiative, there will likely be an "Outcomes Congress" (third learning session in September 2011) to celebrate successes and prepare for continuation of the prevention efforts. It will not be an all-day event but rather perhaps a four hour event. This should help in accommodating driving times to and from Indianapolis. This final event will be the only event with all initiative participants in Indianapolis.

Question: Will participating facilities receive training on the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) system?

ANSWER: Yes. There will likely be three components to the NHSN training. First, each facility will designate an individual (or individuals) to be the NHSN coordinator for the facility. That individual will complete the CDC online NHSN training modules. Second, there will be a 2-4 hour in-person training session for the NHSN reporting system for the individual designated by the facility. That session will likely be regional and will include only one or two individuals from each participating facility who are responsible for reporting data through the NHSN system. I expect the NHSN training session to be in July or August 2010. Third, the Initiative plans to provide access to facilitators to assist the facilities as needed.

Question: What will be the cost of the Initiative to participants?

ANSWER: There is no charge for facilities to participate in the Initiative other than a charge for food and beverage. This is generally around a \$25 per person cost per event. All educational materials and programs will be provided at no cost to the participating facility or agency. Participants are responsible for travel costs to Initiative events. As discussed above, the ISDH is having regional events to reduce those costs.

The remainder of the initiative will be the facility's team facilitating improvements within their infection control systems and ensuring training and participation across the facility. While there will be costs for staff time and other facility expenses in implementing improvements, the goal is to reduce future costs. In the 15-month pressure ulcer initiative, we estimate that over \$15 million dollars was saved during that year through the prevention of pressure ulcers.

## Coming Events

May 14, 2010: Applications for participation in Indiana Healthcare Associated Infections Initiative due  
Early June 2010: Participating facilities and agencies selected  
July 2010: Participating facilities and agencies conduct self-assessments  
August 2010: Regional NHSN training sessions  
October 2010: Regional learning and discussion sessions for participating teams

Thank you for your interest in preventing healthcare associated infections. We look forward to this important healthcare quality improvement initiative. For more information about the Indiana Healthcare Associated Infection Initiative and preventing infections, visit the ISDH Healthcare Associated Infection Resource Center at the link below.

Terry Whitson  
Assistant Commissioner  
Indiana State Department of Health



*To visit the ISDH Healthcare Associated Infection Resource Center, go to*  
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/24769.htm>