

Office of Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C-12-22-NH

DATE: March 16, 2012

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

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

Memorandum Summary

- **Notification:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will conduct a Healthcare Associated Infections Prevention Program Environmental Scan of State Survey Agency Training Coordinators and State HAI Coordinators.
- **State Selection:** The randomly selected States to participate in the pilot are Nebraska, Washington, Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, Colorado and Massachusetts.
- **Effective Date:** The pilot environmental scan will begin in late March 2012.

The CMS in collaboration with the CDC seeks to identify current State Health Department and State Survey Agency HAI prevention programs for nursing homes. 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.

The environmental scan will occur in two parts, one pilot interview of a few States and a second round of interviews with all States. We will begin the initial pilot scan of seven randomly selected States (Nebraska, Washington, Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, Colorado and Massachusetts) in late March 2012. Following the results of the pilot, we will make any necessary modifications to the interview questions.

We anticipate completing the full environmental scan of all States and U.S. Territories by late summer 2012.

Beginning in late March, each pilot State Survey Agency and State HAI Coordinator will receive a call from our contractor, Training Development Program Management (TDP), LLC, as they complete the environmental scan questionnaire. Please assist us with this very important project by sharing information about your programs for infection prevention in nursing homes when called.

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