



# CMS 2012 Tri-Regional PACE CONFERENCE

Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

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## TRANSCRIPT

### Infection Control Overview

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Good morning everybody. And welcome again to Philadelphia. This morning we're going to start to speak about the infection regulation. And during this conference you're going to hear about many of the different regulations that are covered under PACE. For many of you, you know that the PACE regulations are minimum requirements that are put into place to insure the safety and well being of participants. Those regulations can be found at the Code of Federal Regulations starting at 460 and going up to 460.210. The infection control regulation can be found at 460.74.

The infection control regulation that I'm going to speak about is just an overview to give you a sense of what the regulation requires. There's only a few pieces of that, so we're going to have additional presentations that will be helpful to sort of fill out and explain what your PACE organization can do to be compliant with this regulation.

But first the infection control regulation requires that a PACE organization follows accepted policies and standard procedures for infection control, including the standard precautions that the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has put into place. Many of you are aware of that and you do that very well.

Are you having trouble hearing me in the back? Please raise your hand. Okay.

In addition, in order to be compliant with that piece of the regulation, we suggest that since there are so many multi-resistant organisms that seem to be cropping up, that a PACE organization periodically takes a look at your infection control policy and procedure and make sure that it's current. Current with the practices that are actually occurring out in the community, with the medical standards. And if it needs to be revised, to do those edits and then to provide training for your staff so that they also are aware of what's in your policy and procedure.

In addition, the infection control regulation requires that the PACE organization establishes, implements and maintains a documented infection control plan. And as part of the infection control plan, they want to insure that there is a safe and sanitary environment and that there is control and prevention of the transmission of disease and infections. And that infection control plan, at a minimum, at a minimum, requires a couple of things. And many of you are aware of these. It requires that you have procedures to identify, investigate, control and prevent infections in each of your case centers and also in each of your participants' residences. It also requires that you have procedures to report any incidences of infections.

That you have procedures to analyze those incidents of infections. That you can identify trends. And lastly, but probably most important, that you put into effect some type of a plan to prevent and reduce infections and any future infections.

So what does that mean for all of you in the audience? Infection control is one of those things that for many of you it's designated to someone, often your quality assurance person or someone who's wearing many different hats and they're saying, oh my goodness, what am I supposed to do with this. Let me tell you what we are looking at. When we come out and we do a PACE audit, we're going to look at your infection control plan. We're going to read through it. We're going to possibly suggest things that you might want to maybe revise or upgrade or – or add things to your infection control plan if we find that maybe it's not covering. We're going to look at your infection control logs. Now we do not prescribe any type of tool. You can use whatever tools you wish to track and trend your infections. Many people use infection control logs, and anybody who has been on an audit with me, we usually have a very nice conversation about logs and what can be done to help improve your logs and improve the information that you're gathering. Sometimes people, when they track their infections, they might just track a particular type of infection. They may not be looking at all the infections at all the different places where your residents actually reside. Or where they might be. For instance, hospitals and nursing homes. That – all that information is important. In addition to that, a lot of times at the end of the month a PACE organization might tally up your number of infections. So they might – their report might say, we had two respiratory infections, one GI infection, and five urinary tract infections, and we saw no trends. But when I go back and take a look at the log, we look at it from the point of your last audit. So I'm looking at your logs over the course of that time, and I might see that you have Peggy Kosherzenko that had a urinary tract infection in January, she had another in March, she had another in June, she had another in September, and they were all with the organism of E. coli. So the reason for the regulation is for you to help prevent and control infections. So I might come back to you and say, well, how did you help Peggy and how did you try to prevent Peggy from getting those urinary tract infections. And oftentimes people are surprised when I'm able to show them, over the course of time, that there were so many infections. So we're just asking you to take a look over time for specific individuals to see how you can help prevent infections for them, and then globally for your participants to see how you can prevent infections for your participants as a whole. And I can mention to you that a lot of times that is through education of your staff. Your staff, as well as agency staff, as well as, you know, reaching out to the nursing home staff as well to try to help prevent infections and working with the nursing home infection control people as well if that needs to be. And then educating the participants themselves, and also the caregivers, because a lot of times it's the caregivers that need some education to help prevent infections.

So we hope that this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.