



# Fast Facts



## Quality Improvement in Rural Hospitals—System and Practice: Learning Session 3

The *Quality Improvement in Rural Hospitals—System and Practice (QI in Rural Hospitals—S&P)* collaborative, presented by Health Services Advisory Group, Inc. (HSAG) in collaboration with the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program at the Rural Health Office, held its third and final face-to-face learning session at the HSAG Phoenix office on **Thursday, June 17, 2010**. The current project focuses on improving the “infection prevention and reporting processes” in Arizona Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs).

### Meeting Objectives

- Review the status of each hospital’s Implementation Plan and Data Monitoring Plan.
- Discuss each hospital’s barriers and lessons learned.
- Obtain peer assistance with developing effective approaches for overcoming barriers.

### Meeting Highlights:

- Hospital representatives presented project case studies including handouts of their individual implementation plans, data monitoring plans, and data collection tools. Discussions ensued in which participants identified their key individual barriers and the group identified a common key barrier.
- The participants came to the conclusion that, at this point, some of the barriers are beyond their abilities to overcome without higher level involvement.
- Participants developed plans for continuing their infection prevention collaborations outside of the formal meetings of the current *QI in Rural Hospitals—Systems & Practice U of A/ HSAG Flex* project.

### Key “Take-Away” Messages

- Infection prevention is evolving into a high profile healthcare topic that has important business implications for hospitals, in addition to the clinical implications for patients and the community.
- The most common key barrier for mounting a successful infection prevention initiative among the participating hospitals deals with finding effective means for getting responsible parties to fill out the data collection forms on a consistent basis.
- If nurses are responsible for collecting data, then the project needs the support of the Nurse Executive to communicate the data collection requirements to the nursing staff and help figure out how the data collection can be accomplished on a consistent basis.

### Next Steps (to be completed by Tuesday, August 3, 2010)

- CEOs can show their support for the project by clearly stating their expectations that the Nurse Executives actively engage in a discussion with the project team related to overcoming data collection barriers.
- Project teams can actively engage their CEOs and Nurse Executives by documenting and helping those leaders understand what the doctors/nurses/laboratory staff/housekeeping staff/etc. need to do to make the project successful.
- Project teams can facilitate the support of their CEOs and Nurse Executives by explaining what those leaders can do to help and formally requesting their help to bring about the changes that the teams think are necessary to achieve the aims of the infection prevention projects.
- Nurse Executives are invited to participate in the next WebEx session, which will be held online Tuesday, August 10, 2010. The time and instructions for joining the online meeting will be sent prior to the event.