

## ***Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections*** **Project Description**

Health Services Advisory Group of California, Inc. (HSAG-California), in collaboration with the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), is launching a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) quality improvement collaborative (called a Learning and Action Network). During the next three years we will work to support California hospitals to improve health, safety, and quality of care for all patients.

A major component of this collaborative is the **Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) Project**, which is focused on dramatically reducing the rates of HAIs in hospitals. Project participants will work to achieve substantial reductions in all HAIs, with a particular emphasis on the following:

- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs)
- *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDIs)
- Surgical-site infections (SSIs)

This new collaborative is in alignment with the National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Healthcare, National Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare Associated Infections, the Partnership for Patients, The Joint Commission, and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) HAI initiative. This alignment will reduce participation barriers and assist you in ensuring that your hospital achieves high performance on the publicly reported *Hospital Compare* HAI metrics. Additionally, participation will promote full Medicare reimbursement by preventing hospital-acquired conditions (HACs) and earning CMS Value-Based Purchasing financial incentives.

HSAG-California and HASC will partner with hospitals to achieve quality improvement goals. Interventions used to achieve these goals may include:

- Educational/technical support.
- On-site facility assistance.
- Assistance with medical staff engagement.
- Comparative data reports.
- Facility-specific quality improvement plans.
- Collaboratives known as Learning and Action Networks.

### **Why participate in this initiative?**

Starting in 2012, Medicare will reward hospitals that provide high-quality care for their patients through the new Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program. For the first time, hospitals across the country will be reimbursed based on quality. HSAG-California has the expertise and resources to partner with your hospital to achieve performance standards for the VBP Program.

### **What will you gain by participating in the Reducing HAIs Project?**

HSAG-California is dedicated to working with participating hospitals to implement proven, evidence-based methods for improvement in the reduction and management of HAIs. Participating hospitals will gain access to free education, training, and tools necessary to reduce HAIs. Participants will have an opportunity to learn from nationally known experts, collaborate with HSAG-California team members, and achieve rapid results through an expedited learning and action network. Hospitals that have worked with HSAG-California in the past have achieved significant improvements in their quality measures.

### **How will attending Learning and Action Network meetings assist us?**

Members from each participating hospital will be required to attend quarterly Learning and Action Network meetings. These meetings will be hosted in collaboration with HASC's Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative meetings. Participation is most effective if the same team members attend all of the sessions. During the meetings, teams will work on their individual HAI reduction and management care processes, learn and share with mentor hospitals, and receive training on quality improvement processes. Between meetings, teams will implement best practices at their institutions and work on quality improvement measures with assistance and support from the HSAG-California team. Teams will report their results at Learning and Action Network meetings.

### **How can we sign up for the Reducing HAIs Project?**

The Chief Executive Officer and one member of your board of directors should sign and return the attached Participation Agreement by September 30, 2011, as a demonstration of your hospital's commitment to the project.

## ***Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections Project*** **Participation Agreement**

**Health Services Advisory Group of California (HSAG-California) and the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) agree to collaboratively provide the following to participating hospitals:**

1. Identify training needs and provide assistance to meet those needs.
2. Provide nationally recognized subject matter experts for collaborative meetings and Webinars.
3. Offer one-on-one on-site consultative services delivered by quality specialists.
4. Assist your HAI team to identify opportunities for improvement and develop a site-specific plan for improvement.
5. Assist physician and administrative champions in establishing their roles and responsibilities.
6. Provide a needs assessment and guidance to interpret the results.
7. Provide routine feedback reports that include comparative data results, trends, and recommendations.
8. Assist as needed in the development and implementation of written processes, policies, and guidelines to reduce HAIs.
9. Provide technical assistance on state and federal reporting requirements.
10. Train staff on research-supported best practices such as rapid cycle improvement.

**If you join the Reducing HAIs Project, you agree to:**

1. Commit to reducing all HAIs, with a special emphasis on CAUTIs, CDIs, and SSIs.
2. Confer National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) rights to HSAG-California on measures for which you are already reporting data (CAUTIs, CDIs, and SSIs).
3. Actively participate in the Project during the entire 36-month duration. This includes the support of the CEO or his/her delegate as an executive leadership champion.
4. Form an interdisciplinary HAI team with an identified physician champion who will promote HAI activities and serve as a liaison between the HAI team and clinical staff.
5. Prepare for and actively participate in quarterly or as needed HSAG-California on-site visits to maximize quality improvement strategies.
6. Work with HSAG-California staff to create an action plan to reduce HAIs that is tailored to the needs of your hospital.
7. Actively participate in HSAG-California-facilitated Learning and Action Network meetings, Webinars, and conference calls. This includes consistently sending a team member to quarterly meetings.
8. Provide support and resources for participants to prepare in advance for each of the local Learning and Action Network meetings and ongoing activities.

The below-listed entities are voluntarily entering into an agreement to participate in the CMS **Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) Project**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Hospital

Health Services Advisory Group of California, Inc.  
Name of Quality Improvement Organization(QIO)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Hospital CEO

Rick Potter, MBA, CPA  
Print Name of QIO CEO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital CEO Signature and Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
QIO CEO Signature and Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Board of Directors Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board of Directors Member Signature and Date

Mail this signed agreement to:

Suzanne Anders, MHI, RN, CPHQ  
Health Services Advisory Group of California, Inc.  
700 North Brand Blvd., Suite 370  
Glendale, CA 91203

Or, fax the agreement to:

Attention: Suzanne Anders, MHI, RN, CPHQ  
**818.409.0835**