



Technical Advisory: HAI-2009-001

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Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Section

## **Multidisciplinary Infection Control Committee Membership Composition**

Section 403(a)(1) of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act, 40 P.S. § 1303.403(a)(1), describes the composition of the multidisciplinary committee required as part of a facility's infection control plan. The Department of Health (Department) has received inquiries regarding whether or not membership of "(iii) laboratory personnel" and "(v) Pharmacy staff" is required as part of the multidisciplinary committee for nursing homes.

This advisory serves to inform nursing homes that their multidisciplinary committees must include representation from laboratory and pharmacy services personnel as their membership and participation in the committee's activities are applicable to the services provided by nursing homes.

Nursing homes are required to provide or obtain laboratory services and pharmacy services to meet the needs of the residents. *See* 42 CFR §§ 483.60 and 483.75(j), and 28 Pa. Code §§ 201.2 and 211.9. These services may be provided directly by facility staff or must be obtained through contracts with other providers of these services. This underscores the significance of having committee representation of the personnel who provide these services to provide consultation regarding any potential concern that could impact the infection control process at the nursing home. These services are vital for the provision of quality care to nursing home resident and for the prevention and detection of healthcare associated infections.

In recognition that laboratory and pharmacy may be contracted to an outside vendor, the Department understands that committee representatives from pharmacy and laboratory services may either be in attendance in person or through teleconference when the multidisciplinary committee meets to discuss infection control issues and/or concerns.

A nursing home's failure to include laboratory and pharmacy personnel in their multidisciplinary committee may result in a finding of a violation of the MCARE Act and imposition of sanctions as appropriate.

**Questions regarding this advisory may be directed to the Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Section, Telephone (717) 425-5422.**