

**Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention  
Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter  
March 2015**

**Department of Health Updates**

**Infection Surveillance**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 30 to 50 percent of elderly long-term care residents can have a positive urine culture even without any symptoms of a urinary tract infection (UTI). Unfortunately, many of these residents who have not had symptoms of an infection are placed inappropriately on antibiotics. Antibiotic-related complications, such as diarrhea from *C. difficile*, can be more severe, difficult to treat, and lead to more hospitalizations and deaths among people over 65 years.

It is vital that all clinicians are educated and understand how to observe for, document and report signs and symptoms of a symptomatic urinary tract infection versus asymptomatic bacteriuria. These nationally recognized signs and symptoms can be found in the Patient Safety Reporting System (PSRS) Nursing Home Manual under resources when you log into PSRS . <https://www.papsrs.state.pa.us/PSA/>

The CDC provides information and resources accessible via their [antibiotic use in nursing homes website](#).



**Patient Safety Reporting System (PSRS) Help Desk**

The PA-PSRS Help Desk continues to be available for any clinical questions related to patient/infection reports, infection criteria or the PA-PSRS system.

The PSRS Help Desk may be accessed by telephone at 866-316-1070  
or by email at [support\\_papsrs@pa.gov](mailto:support_papsrs@pa.gov).

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### Resources and Information

#### Partnering to Heal Training Program

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion recently announced the re-launch of "Partnering to Heal," a computer-based, video-simulation training program on infection control practices for clinicians, health professional students, and patient advocates.

The training is designed for health professional schools and health care facilities. Partnering to Heal is a Virtual Experience Immersive Learning Simulation (VEILS<sup>®</sup>) that addresses the prevention of healthcare-associated infections and the serious consequences they have on thousands of lives each year. The training highlights effective communication about infection control practices and ideas for creating a "culture of safety" in health care institutions to keep patients from getting sicker. Users assume the identity of five main characters (a physician, nurse, infection prevention expert, patient family member, and medical student) to make decisions about preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).



[Partnering to Heal: Teaming Up Against Healthcare-Associated Infections](#)

#### Outbreak and Patient Notifications

The CDC provides information and resources regarding [outbreaks and patient notifications](#) to assist health departments and health care facilities. This website also provides safety alerts regarding the recent endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) duodenoscope cluster and the FDA and CDC investigation of simulated IV saline solution being administered to patients.

#### JCAHO Infection Prevention and HAI Portal

On January 13, 2015, the [Joint Commission announced](#) a new portal that merged two online infection prevention resources into one expanded tool. The [Infection Prevention and HAI Portal](#) provides information on various topics on patient safety and infection control.