



Infection Control Assessment and Training Initiative for Skilled Nursing Facilities

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BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY



Background

- According to national data since June 2020, nursing home residents comprise less than 2% of COVID-19 cases yet account for more than 25% of all deaths^{1,2}
- Long-term care residents are more susceptible to infection in general
- Pandemic emphasized additional work surrounding infection prevention and control (IPC) is needed in such settings

The ICAR Training Initiative

- Onsite assessment and training initiative in partnership with Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) Consulting Services
- Intended to improve SNF COVID-19 and general IPC response-readiness
- *Not punitive*; participation **highly** encouraged!
- Includes all eligible skilled nursing facilities in PA*

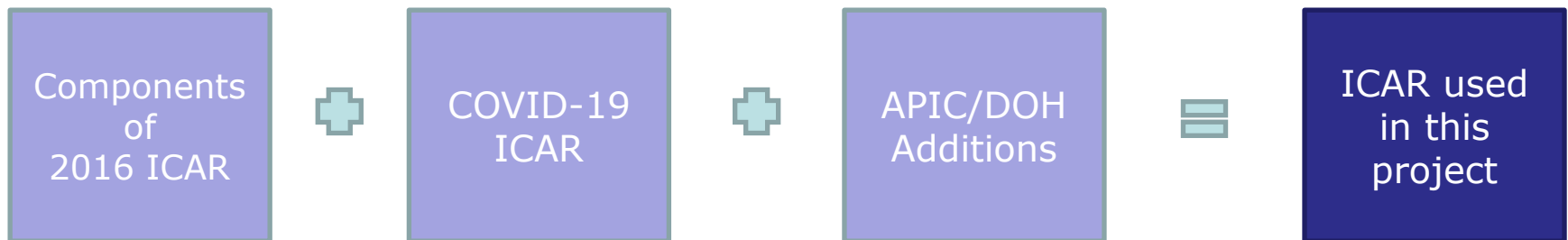
* Exception is Philadelphia county; Philadelphia Dept of Public Health has received separate funding to conduct similar activities in SNFs aimed at improving COVID-19 and IPC response readiness

APIC Consulting Services

- APIC is a leading professional association for infection preventionists with more than 15,000 members
- APIC Consulting to provide experienced consultants to perform onsite activities
- Consultants are CIC-certified and will perform face-to-face assessment and training

The Assessment

- CDC 2016 Infection Control Assessment of Risk (ICAR) for Long Term Care Facilities
→ COVID-19-specific ICAR developed by CDC



- Consultants will spend 8 hours onsite conducting assessment during first visit

▶ The Assessment: continued

Assessment Components

1. Sit-down discussion with facility staff member
2. Onsite assessment of facility
 - Direct observation of practices
 - Interviews
 - Policy review
3. Post-assessment letter of recommendations

The Training

- Consultants return within 3 business days of assessment to spend 8 hours onsite conducting trainings

Training Components

- Core training modules
- Targeted walkthrough and implementation training

▶ The Training: continued

- Open to all facility staff
- Facility provides sign in sheet to track participation numbers
- Room setup and technology considerations

Assessment and Training Communications

- Letter of Recommendations

- ▣ Observations
- ▣ List of guidance materials describing proper processes
- ▣ Recommended activity to improve skill or process
- ▣ Time in which to implement the improvement

- Summary of Training

- ▣ Type of training
- ▣ Time spent training for each training type
- ▣ Number of staff trained

Follow-up Period

- DOH to follow up with SNFs at 30 and 90-days post-training
- Electronic post-visit survey
 - ▾ Assessment of progress in completing recommended activities
 - ▾ Barriers
 - ▾ Staff perceptions
 - ▾ Comments

Basic Overview of Activities

APIC Consulting will contact facility to schedule visits

APIC consultant will conduct onsite assessment over 8 hrs

APIC consultant will return within 3 days of assessment to train staff over 8 hrs

Facility will receive letter of recommendations based on assessment

Facility will receive summary of training conducted

DOH will follow up twice with an e-survey in the months following the visits

▶ What will facilities need to do?

Pre-Visit

- ✓ Submit pre-assessment form and documents

First Visit

- ✓ Introductory sit-down discussion with consultant
- ✓ 1 staff member available during facility tour to guide consultant if/as needed

Second Visit

- ✓ Block off time/space during second visit for staff members to receive training

Post-Visit

- ✓ ~10 minutes to complete each post-visit survey

What's in it for facilities?

- Robust IPC assessment to pinpoint areas of improvement at no cost to facility
- Facility-specific targeted interventions developed to address most pertinent IPC needs
- Onsite IPC training provided by experienced APIC consultants at no cost to facility
- Staff receive access to online IPC educational materials developed by APIC experts

Getting Scheduled

- Streamline the process!

★ [Access the Pre-Assessment Form Here](#) ★

- General inquiries/to express interest:
 - www.apicconsulting.com/icar
- APIC Consulting will send email blast with available visit dates in your area on rolling basis
- Facilities with completed pre-assessments prioritized for available dates

Questions/Comments/Concerns?

Department of Health

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APIC Consulting Services

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References

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2. Nursing Home COVID-19 Data Dashboard. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Updated July 5, 2021. Accessed July 8, 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/covid19/ltc-report-overview.html#anchor_1594393307