



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

December 1, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

CHERYL BETTIGOLE, MD, MPH
Health Commissioner

LANDRUS BURRESS, DrPH, MPH, MS
Division Director, Division of Disease
Control

JESSICA CAUM, MA, MPH
Deputy Director, Division of Disease
Control

To the Director of Nursing/Facility Administrator/Infection Preventionist,

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Program has partnered with APIC Consulting Services, the consulting arm of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) to invite long-term care facilities throughout the City of Philadelphia to participate in a **no cost, non-punitive, non-regulatory** infection prevention and control (IPC) improvement initiative and mentorship.

Participating facilities now have the option of receiving limited or full support for this initiative. Facilities choosing limited support will receive a three-day ICAR with final report of findings and recommendations and a comprehensive catalog of IPC resources to guide staff development and recommendation implementation from an experienced and CIC-certified APIC consultant. Facilities selecting this path will not receive the 3-month implementation and IP mentoring support, but always have the option to request full support at any time during their participation.

Participating facilities interested in full support will receive a three-day onsite IPC assessment, recommendation implementation support, and IP education and mentorship for 3-months from an experienced and CIC-certified APIC consultant. Your dedicated consultant will work directly with you and your staff to assess and offer recommendations to improve your facility's IPC protocols, practices, surveillance, and infectious disease outbreak response readiness.

Participation will allow your facility to clearly identify and correct IPC gaps and improve upon your IPC practices in a supportive and non-punitive manner. Our personalized, face-to-face support allows your consultant to provide a plan of action that is most beneficial to your individual facility. Your consultant will be able to meet with you at your facility and virtually multiple times during the support period, coordinated around your schedule.

In return for your participation, your facility will receive the following:

- Onsite assessment and consultation of your facility's IPC practices.
- A report outlining opportunities for improvement, best practice recommendations, and supporting resources to guide your facility's quality improvement activities.
- A suggested action plan, including resources for improvement based on your top four to five focus areas identified from your IPC assessment.
- On-site and remote consultant follow up support for recommendation implementation and IP mentoring. Your consultant will continue to meet with you for up to three months to assist your facility in addressing your focus areas and providing support to reach your desired goals and outcomes.

- Access to a comprehensive educational catalog of IPC resources for staff education and skill development.
- A certificate of participation in this quality improvement and infection prevention and control effort which may qualify as a CMS required QAPI project.
- Free APIC membership (offered regardless of participation--see attached flyer for details)
- Scholarship that covers enrollment fees in the LTC-IP certification exam prep course and exam for eligible candidates (offered regardless of participation--see attached flyer for details)

Please respond regarding your interest in an ICAR visit with APIC Consulting by emailing Nicole Brand at nbrand@apic.org. Alternatively, you may contact the HAI/AR team directly at HAI.PDPH@phila.gov.

We hope you will consider taking advantage of this opportunity to strengthen your IPC practices, and look forward to continued collaboration with you all.

Sincerely,

Jane M Gould, M.D.
Medical Director

Tiina Peritz, MS, BSN, RN, CIC
Program Manager

Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Program
Division of Disease Control
Philadelphia Department of Public Health
1101 Market St., 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107