The sample RCA, actions, interventions, best practices and metrics illustrated here to address identified infection prevention areas of opportunity are solely intended as example guidance. Your team should perform an infection prevention gap analysis/risk assessment and build a customized action plan to best meet the needs of your specific organization and community.

**TOPIC AREA**

Antibiotic Stewardship  Infection Control Surveillance  Vaccination/Immunization

Environmental Hygiene  Staff Infection Exposure Prevention  Other

Hand Hygiene  Testing/Screening, Cohorting Residents

Isolation Precautions  Visitors Restriction Infection Prevention

**Conduct Root Cause Analyses for Each Identified Gap or Opportunity:**

* Determine contributing factors, events, system issues and processes involved
* Utilize RCA tools as appropriate (e.g., 5 Whys, Fishbone, Cause & Effect Diagram)
* Conduct a Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) to test intervention, review results and adjust actions needed

**Identify Infection Prevention and Control Gaps & Areas of Opportunity:**

* [CDC Infection Control Assessment for Long-term Care Facilities](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/icar/ltcf.pdf)
* Review previous survey findings, federal and state regulations and CDC updates for long-term care facilities
* Check [CMS Quality Safety & Oversight memos](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Policy-and-Memos-to-States-and-Regions)

|  |
| --- |
| **Area of Opportunity:** |
| Proper hand hygiene is not being performed consistently by direct care staff and other employees |
| **Root Cause Analysis** **(specify each root cause and address each within the action plan) *Examples Below:*** |
| 1. All staff do not receive the same frequency of hand hygiene education |
| 1. All staff are not audited on hand hygiene |
| 1. Hand hygiene stations not conveniently located on the units |
|  |
|  |
| **S.M.A.R.T. Goal: (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based)** |
| Achieve 95% compliance with hand hygiene by |

| **Project Start Date** | **Specific Actions and Interventions**  **\****HQIN IP Intervention Resources (optional)* | **Projected Completion Date** | **Person/Team Responsible**  \**To include QAPI Committee* | **Ongoing Monitoring and Surveillance** | **Additional Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | * Review hand hygiene policy and update if needed – use nationally recognized sources for guidance |  | Administrator, Director of Nursing, Infection Preventionist | Annually and as needed | **Ensure P&Ps are evidence-based (e.g., APIC, CDC, WHO guidelines)**   * [Hand Hygiene | APIC](https://apic.org/resources/topic-specific-infection-prevention/hand-hygiene/) (Note: Some links on this site require a subscription or membership to access the content) * [Hand Hygiene Infection Prevention](https://apic.org/resources/topic-specific-infection-prevention/hand-hygiene/) | APIC * [Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings| CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/index.html) |
|  | * Develop tools to monitor and track, trend and document compliance * Establish facility baseline compliance * Institute scheduled hand hygiene audits as part of facility’s infection prevention and control program (ICPC) |  | Administrator, Director of Nursing, Infection Preventionist | At Least Quarterly | * Notify a Health Quality Innovators (HQI) Quality Improvement Advisor (QIA) if auditing and monitoring tools are needed * [Measuring Hand Hygiene Assurance: Overcoming the Challenges | CDC](https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/11996) * [[Hand Hygiene Competency Tracking Tool | HQIN](https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/11996)](https://hqin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/HQIN-Hand%20Hygiene%20Competency%20Tracking%20Tool%20|%20HQIN) * [Hand Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework | WHO](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/integrated-health-services-(ihs)/hand-hygiene/monitoring/hhsa-framework-october-2010.pdf?sfvrsn=41ba0450_6) |
|  | * Educate ALL staff on proper hand hygiene – how and when to perform hand hygiene * Use multiple modalities (posters, video, live training) to increase attention and keep hand hygiene at top of mind |  | Administrator, Director of Nursing, Infection Preventionist, Staff Development, Department Managers | Provide training at orientation, quarterly and as needed based on audit compliance rates and infection control concerns | * [Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives Posters | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html) * [Clean Hands Count Campaign | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/campaign/index.html) * [Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings Promotional Materials | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/campaign/promotional.html) * [Targeted COVID-19 Training for Nursing Homes](https://qsep.cms.gov/welcome.aspx) [Note: This training requires logging in to the Quality, Safety & Education Portal (QSEP)] * [Handwashing Videos | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/videos.html) * [Handwashing: Show Me the Science | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/science/index.html) * [Handwashing: Training & Education | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/training-education.html) * [Hand-Hygiene Pocket Card | HQIN](https://hqin.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Hand-Hygiene-Three-Card-1.pdf) |
|  | * Follow up staff education with hand hygiene competency validation |  | Infection Preventionist, Staff Development |  | * [Hand Hygiene Competency Validation | SPICE](https://hqin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Hand-Hygiene-Competency-Validation_SPICE_4-9-20.pdf) |
|  | * Give feedback and on-the-spot education if individual hand hygiene performance does not follow guidelines * Encourage accountability, questions and a culture of safety that is not punitive |  | Administrator, Infection Preventionist, Department Managers |  | * [TeamSTEPPS® in LTC: Communication Strategies to Promote Quality and Safety | QIO Program](https://qioprogram.org/teamstepps%C2%AE-ltc-communication-strategies-promote-quality-and-safety) |
|  | * Report findings and compliance at monthly/quarterly QAPI (or other quality improvement) meetings * Report findings to all staff |  | QAPI Team |  | * [QAPI At a Glance: A Step by Step Guide to Implementing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) in Your Nursing Home](https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/qapi/downloads/qapiataglance.pdf) |

This material was prepared by Health Quality Innovators (HQI), a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. 12SOW/HQI/QIN-QIO-0439-02/22/23