

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) AWARDS FUNDING TO NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH) TO BOLSTER INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICE.... On April 3, NCHCFA sent a letter from NC SPICE to each facility describing this initiative. This is an opportunity for expert assessment and consultation regarding your infection control systems. This initiative is not affiliated with CMS and all data will be submitted to the CDC in aggregated and anonymous formats. Infections are, and will grow rapidly as, one of the major challenges of the health care system.

Staff from the DPH Communicable Disease Branch, along with SPICE, will oversee the implementation of two activities: 1) an infection control assessment program and 2) targeted healthcare infection prevention programs. The primary focus of this project will be to address the lack of comprehensive infection control training and oversight in hospital and non-hospital healthcare facilities across the state and to enhance the ability of public health to work with all facilities to prepare for and mitigate existing or emerging infectious disease threats. NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch is contracting SPICE to:

1. Develop a comprehensive database of all NC healthcare facilities including self-assessment of infection control practices, training, and outbreak assessment. Self-assessment will incorporate checklists developed by the CDC for various healthcare facilities: acute care, nursing home, ambulatory care, and dialysis. The goal is for 50% of each type of healthcare facility to complete the self-assessment. Acute care facilities (acute care hospitals, critical access hospitals, Long-Term Acute Care (LTAC), and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs) and NC licensed nursing homes will initially complete the self-assessment, followed by ambulatory care facilities in the following year.

2. Conduct facility site visits/consultation (randomly selected from database) for in depth discussion and review of infection control practices and outbreak assessment (detect, report, respond). The goal is to visit 30 hospitals, 80 nursing homes, and 100 ambulatory care facilities.

3. Develop targeted infection control training and education based on identified gaps. SPICE has hired three nurse consultants to implement the site visit/consultation part of the project. In April 2016, they will begin contacting hospitals and nursing homes to schedule site visits/consultations.

One of the two first participants sent NCHCFA this feedback upon receiving our letter. *"We completed this last week, and it was great! They provided so much good information for us to work on."*

You may also sign up for a visit and/or learn more about this program, by clicking on the following link: <http://spice.unc.edu/icar/>