**Background: Healthcare Infection Control and Response**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded funding to NC DPH (and public health divisions in all 50 states) to build and strengthen epidemiology, laboratory and health information systems capacity. The goal of the 3 year project, called Healthcare Infection Control and Response, is to bolster infection control practice and competency throughout the NC healthcare delivery system. Staff from the DPH Communicable Disease Branch 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, dialysis. Our goal is for 50% of each type of healthcare facility to complete the self-assessment. Acute care facilities (acute care hospitals, critical access hospitals, LTAC, and 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 of infection control practices and outbreak assessment (detect, report, respond). Our 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.