

Introduction to the Toolkit: Successful Strategies for the Prevention of Urinary Tract Infections in Long-Term Care

This urinary tract infections (UTI) toolkit contains infection prevention presentations, resources, and tools that have been adapted for long-term care facilities (LTCFs). The toolkit was developed as a result of a collaborative effort between 12 nursing homes in the Eastern region of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program, and the Virginia Health Care Association (VHCA) to impart best practices in the prevention of UTIs within the long-term care (LTC) population.

These documents have been developed from published literature reviews, evidence-based research, standards of practice, or recommendations obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), licensing agencies, professional organizations, or other recognized sources. Materials and information from other organizations in this toolkit that use hospital-centered language also apply to LTC settings.

UTIs are very common in residents in long-term care facilities and consequently result in a significant amount of antimicrobial use within the resident population. It is our hope that the toolkit will be used to support best practices for the prevention of urinary tract infections and promote strategies to improve resident care including the judicious use of antimicrobials.

The toolkit is meant to introduce and summarize guidelines and best practices, and does not replace published standards and regulations. Refer to the toolkit component, “UTI Prevention Resources and References”, to help access the official guidelines and regulations and contact the VDH HAI Program with questions.

We would appreciate any feedback on the materials including which resources are most helpful and which have areas for improvement. Please check our website periodically for updates on toolkit materials.

Best wishes,

The VDH HAI Program and the Virginia Health Care Association

To contact the VDH HAI Program:

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<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/HAI/>