

Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Group

Operating Procedures

Purpose

The Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Advisory Group (VHAG) is a voluntary, statewide, multidisciplinary group that coordinates the efforts of the Commonwealth's HAI stakeholders to align strategies, share information and resources, and produce synergies that will accelerate statewide and individual institutional progress in preventing HAIs and antimicrobial resistance (AR). The group includes persons with expertise in the surveillance, prevention, and control of healthcare-associated infections, including representation from the Virginia Department of Health and other state agencies, Health Quality Innovators (HQI), the Virginia Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO), the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology – Virginia Chapter (APIC-VA), healthcare providers, infection preventionists, pharmacists, consumers, and physician champions.

Mission

The mission of the VHAG is to improve health outcomes in all of Virginia's healthcare settings, with the ultimate goal of preventing HAIs and AR. We will accomplish this mission by convening stakeholders to:

- Identify and recommend evidence-based best practices for monitoring and preventing targeted HAIs, including strategies for reporting, surveillance and education of providers and consumers;
- Encourage healthcare settings to adopt high reliability practices and principles to promote a culture of safety and sustain improvements over time; and
- Proactively address emerging HAI and AR topics.

Member Objectives

- Serve as leaders for HAI and AR prevention in Virginia.
- Provide input and updates to the state HAI plan and stakeholder initiatives.
- Identify specific HAI prevention targets for Virginia consistent with the priorities established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Develop initiatives to meet target goals. Recommend strategies for translating evidence based guidelines into practice in Virginia's healthcare settings.
- Raise awareness statewide about the importance of HAI and AR prevention progress, areas for improvement, and opportunities for collaboration and participation.
- Align strategies to address HAIs and AR by facilitating collaboration, thus providing synergy among participating stakeholders and the organizations they represent.
- Ensure consistent, unified messaging by HAI stakeholder organizations, avoid duplication of effort, and maximize the effective use of available resources.

Membership Overview

Virginia HAI Advisory Group Membership Overview				
Leadership				
VDH HAI/AR Program Virginia Department of Health HAI/AR Program	VHHA Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association	HQI Health Quality Innovators		
Maintain VHAG Website Maintain Membership Database	Host Quarterly VHAG Meetings	Maintain VHAG Meeting Calendar Share agenda/slides (1 week/day prior)		
Develop Annual Strategic Plan Maintain & Promote Membership Coordinate & Produce Quarterly VHAG Meetings				
Membership				
All members must maintain current contact information and roles/strengths with VHAG Program Manager All VHAG members should maintain engagement as a stakeholder and/or as workgroup member				
Stakeholders Representatives of Member Organizations	Workgroups			
	Annual Priority	Safe Antibiotic Stewardship Innovators (SASI)	Infection Prevention Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend (or appoint alternate) quarterly VHAG meetings Update on relevant information, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upcoming events Current priorities Changes in leadership Plan for succession <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name an alternate to replace organization representation May designate personnel to join and support workgroups as a <i>Member at Large</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member organization designees are not required to participate in the Advisory Group and are not considered Advisory Group members 	Every year, this workgroup decides on a specific HAI or AR topic that has statewide implications, and for which VHAG could make impacts in a calendar year and/or put processes in place for the future.	The Antibiotic Stewardship workgroup aims to ensure the appropriate use of antibiotics, improve patient outcomes, decrease adverse effects, reduce antimicrobial resistance, and decrease healthcare costs.	This workgroup focuses on providing education and training for healthcare workers in order to provide tools and resources to help decrease HAIs. It also assists other workgroups with educational support on current priority issues and healthcare concerns related to HAIs.	
	Three Tiers of Participation within each Workgroup			
		Workgroup Chairs	Full Member	Member at Large
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each workgroup is recommended to have a lead and secondary chair Ensure completion of annual priorities proposal* & year end summary Schedule & maintain workgroup meetings Ensure workgroup maintains progress toward annual priorities Coordinate with workgroup members where necessary Provide workgroup progress updates at quarterly VHAG meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to planning Attend workgroup meetings Provide significant input on work products Attendance at quarterly VHAG meetings is strongly encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide limited availability Provide subject matter expertise Attendance at regular workgroup meetings is optional Attendance at quarterly VHAG meetings is not expected 	
Recognition				
Workgroup chairs and full members shared on the VHAG website VHAG leadership will compile and publish (on VHAG website) yearly workgroup accomplishments Members who attend ≥75% of meetings will receive a certificate of participation				

*Template *Priorities Proposal* provided to all workgroups

VHAG Leadership & Stakeholder Overview

Virginia HAI Advisory Group Leadership & Stakeholder Overview			
VHAG Leadership			
Co-Leaders	VDH HAI/AR Program	VHHA	HQI
		Sarah Lineberger, MPH	Joyce Dayvault, RN, BBA, CPHQ
VHAG Chair: Michelle Doll, MD, MPH			
VHAG Program Manager: Angela Spleen, PhD			
VHAG Workgroup Chairs			
	Annual Priority	Antibiotic Stewardship	Infection Prevention Education
Co-chair	Joyce Dayvault, RN, BBA, CPHQ	Deb Smith, MLT, BSN, CIC, CPHQ	Angela Spleen, PhD
Co-chair	Virgie Fields, MS, CPH, CIC	Shaina Bernard, PharmD, BCPS	Mary Locklin, MSN, RN, CIC
Stakeholders			
Healthcare Partners	Professional Associations & Partners		Virginia State Agencies
Ambulatory Surgery Center (MEDARVA)	Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology – VA Chapter (APIC-VA)		Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS)
Bon Secours	Health Quality Innovators (HQI)		Dept. of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)
Eastern Virginia Medical School	LeadingAge Virginia		Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS)
HCA Virginia Health System	Medical Society of Virginia (MSV)		Virginia Board of Health
Medical Facilities of America	Quality Insights ESRD Network 5		Virginia Department of Health – Office of Emergency Preparedness
Sentara Healthcare	Stewardship Interest Group of Virginia (SIGoVA)		Virginia Department of Health – Office of Epidemiology
Shelting Arms Rehabilitation Centers	Virginia Healthcare Association (VHCA) / Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VCAL)		Virginia Department of Health – Office of Licensure and Certification
UVA Health System	Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)		Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
VCU Health System			

Please visit the [Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Group website](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/vhag/) for more information:

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