

Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Group

Purpose, Mission, Composition

Purpose:

The Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Advisory Group 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, Health Quality Innovators (HQI), the Virginia Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO), the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology – Virginia Chapter (APIC-VA), healthcare providers, infection preventionists, pharmacists, consumers, and physician champions.

Mission:

The mission of the Virginia HAI Advisory Group 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 a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders with expertise in the surveillance, prevention and control of HAIs and AR 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.

Roles of the HAI Advisory Group Members:

- 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 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 facilities.
- 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.

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Stakeholders represented on the HAI Advisory Group (may include, but not limited to):

- Organizations
 - Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Virginia Chapter (APIC-VA)
 - Health Quality Innovators (HQI), Virginia QIN-QIO
 - Virginia Department of Health (VDH) with expertise in epidemiology, emergency preparedness, and licensure and certification
 - Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
 - Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
 - Virginia Health Information (VHI)
 - Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA)
 - Quality Insights ESRD Network 5
 - Virginia Health Care Association (VHCA)
 - LeadingAge Virginia
 - Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS)
 - Medical Society of Virginia (MSV)
 - Stewardship Interest Group of Virginia (SIGoVA)
 - Other licensing and credentialing organizations
 - Other associations of healthcare facilities or healthcare professionals
 - Academic institutions

- Healthcare professionals representing diverse settings and populations
 - Hospital administrators
 - Infection preventionists
 - Pharmacists with expertise in antibiotic stewardship
 - Microbiologists
 - Physicians with expertise in infectious disease and epidemiology
 - Quality improvement experts
 - Representatives from long-term care and assisted living facilities
 - Representatives from inpatient rehabilitation and long-term acute care facilities
 - Representatives from outpatient settings such as ambulatory surgery centers and dialysis facilities

- Other stakeholders
 - Businesses or purchasers of healthcare
 - Consumers of healthcare