



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 providing safe, high-quality healthcare for Virginia residents by preventing HAIs and antimicrobial resistance (AR).

2024 VHAG SUMMARY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

VHAG Stakeholders

Thank you to all the stakeholders who presented at VHAG quarterly meetings in 2024. Your active participation has been invaluable in driving meaningful conversations and fostering collaboration. By sharing your organization's goals, priorities, and key activities, you've not only provided critical insights but also sparked important dialogue that has helped us align our collective efforts more effectively.

- **APIC Virginia Chapter** – Maimuna Jatta
- **Carilion Clinic** – Anthony Baffoe-Bonnie & Maimuna Jatta
- **Health Quality Innovation Network (HQIN)** - Deb Smith
- **Henrico, Parham & Retreat Doctor's Hospital (HCA)** - Rebecca Collins & Heather Minton
- **LeadingAge Virginia** – Emily Varvil
- **MedRVA Healthcare** – Robin Williamson
- **Quality Insights Renal Network 5** – Amanda Morelli
- **VCU Infection Control & Epidemiology** – Connie Atkinson & Michelle Doll
- **Virginia Department of Health – Fairfax County Health Department** – Benjamin Schwartz
- **Virginia Department of Health – Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program**
- **Virginia Department of Health – Office of Emergency Preparedness** – James Moss
- **Virginia Department of Health – Office of Licensure & Certification – Division of LTC Services** – Martha Grammer
- **Virginia Department of Social Services** – Erin Arizmendi
- **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** - Kristie Burnette

Annual Priority Workgroup

The 2024 Annual Priority Workgroup pivoted away from CLABSI due to changes in NHSN's mandatory race/ethnicity reporting. This led to a shift in focus towards disparities in sepsis throughout Virginia. The workgroup created an educational document outlining disparities in sepsis, recommendations for improvement, and showcasing effective strategies in the field. The educational resource, shared with VDH infection preventionists and VHAG members, also played a key role in raising awareness about mandatory NHSN reporting in 2025.

Safe Antibiotic Stewardship Innovators (SASI) Workgroup

The SASI workgroup continued its efforts to promote optimal antimicrobial use. The focus in 2024 was on nursing home education and antimicrobial use and resistance data. This year's accomplishments include:

- Participating in U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week
- Developing three education documents for nursing homes to improve antibiotic use
- Gaining feedback from committee members on NHSN antibiogram functions and potential statewide uses
- Gaining feedback from committee members on NHSN antibiotic use data; have used the feedback for critical access hospital data reports

Thank you to the subcommittee members who made these successes possible!

- Aabha Jain, April Dyer, Benjamin Shwartz, Cindy Warriner, Deb Smith, Emily Hawker, Emily Valencia, Heather Cox, Kate Bradshaw, Lauren Mcdaniel, Linda Crane, Lois Lee, Rebecca Collins, Shaina Bernard, Shivali Singh, Susan Moeslein, Victoria Geissinger.

Infection Prevention (IP) Education Workgroup

The IP Education Workgroup celebrated the first anniversary of the Virginia Infection Prevention & Control Training Alliance (VIPTA) in October 2024. The VIPTA website and monthly bulletin are your one-stop-shops for infection prevention and control resources in Virginia. We're excited to share this year's milestones for VIPTA:

- Bulletin subscribership increased by over 200%
- Welcomed over 13,000 views to the VIPTA website
- Shared 61 IPC-related guidance and regulation updates
- Celebrated 12 individuals/teams for their work in infection prevention
- Partnered with stakeholders to feature new training resources every month
- Shared 143 IPC-related events on the VIPTA calendar

Thank you to the subcommittee members who made these VIPTA successes possible!

- Andrea Chapman, Smrithi Chikkala, Maimuna Jatta, Carolyn Kiefer, Mary Locklin, Heather Minton, Anthony Nappi, Angela Spleen, and Ginger Vanhoozer

