



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).

The group includes persons with expertise in the surveillance, prevention, and control of HAIs, including representation from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Health Quality Innovators (HQI), the Virginia Quality Innovation Network - Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO), the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA), the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology - Virginia Chapter (APIC-VA), healthcare providers, infection preventionists, pharmacists, consumers, and physician champions.

**This document outlines 2023 highlights of the Virginia HAI Advisory Group.**

## Commitment to VHAG Stakeholder Interests

This year, VHAG focused on data and hot topic updates, as well as highlighting the work of our stakeholders. We created templates for stakeholder presentations and welcomed new voices as partners volunteered to share more about their HAI-related work. Aligning with member feedback, VHAG resumed in-person meetings for one quarterly meeting per year, an event that will continue to grow in 2024!

## Annual Priority Workgroup

### Health Equity and Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections

This year, the Annual Priority Workgroup turned its focus to health equity as it relates to central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) events. The workgroup started by examining CLABSI-related data from the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) Inpatient Database and built member capacity to include future comparisons to National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) CLABSI data.

# 2023 VHAG SUMMARY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Safe Antibiotic Stewardship Innovators (SASI) Workgroup

SASI focused on resource development in 2023:

- Do One Thing Differently - Targeting Antimicrobial Stewardship:
  - IV to PO
  - Appropriate Prescribing
  - Preventing Blood Culture Contamination
- Blood Culture Contamination Reporting Process
- Urine Diagnostic Algorithm
- Antibiotic Time-Out Form for Long-Term Care

Additionally, this workgroup surveyed hospitals to better understand antimicrobial stewardship program needs related to antibiotic use tracking in National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) and started work towards validating those data. Lastly, SASI updated their antibiogram collection form.

## Infection Prevention (IP) Education Workgroup

After two-years of development the IP Education Workgroup is excited to announce the launch of the Virginia Infection Prevention and Control Training Alliance (VIPTA).



**VIPTA is your one-stop-shop for infection prevention and control resources!**

- Statewide Event Calendar
- Searchable Curated Resource Library
- Featured Training Resources
- Guidance & Regulation Updates
- Cheers for Peers

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/vipta](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vipta)