

**Part-Time Infection Preventionist - Nurse Consultant Contractor for the  
Connecticut Department of Health, Healthcare Associated Infection Program (HAI),  
Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Team (4/11/17)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Connecticut Department of Health (DPH), Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Program, received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of a three-year nationwide program to reduce healthcare associated infections (HAIs). Funding is through April 1, 2018. With this cooperative agreement, DPH has established the Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) team to assist health care facilities (HCFs) in reducing the number of HAIs by assessing their infection prevention programs, providing educational resources, and sharing best practices identified in Connecticut HCF throughout the state.

In collaboration with Connecticut HCFs, this team will assess a variety of patient care settings including acute care hospitals, long term care facilities, hemodialysis centers, and other outpatient settings. In 2017, the priority HCF's are long term care facilities (LTC). The ICAR team provides a non-regulatory assessment of their infection prevention program and practices.

To assist facilities, the ICAR team will:

- Provide infection prevention self-assessment tools and resources to HCFs
- Facilitate discussions with facility leadership to assess infection prevention practices and program activities using CDC's standardized tool
- Detect infection prevention gaps through on-site interviews and observations
- Share best practices identified nationally and locally
- Bolster outbreak response and reporting preparedness.

**POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:**

As part of the ICAR Team, the Infection Prevention - Nurse Consultant will be responsible for:

1. Working with CT DPH on assessing CT healthcare facilities (HCF) on conducting site visits to determine the infection prevention and control gaps; work closely with the facilities to mitigate the gaps; provide written reports; and establish ongoing relationships with the facilities to maintain sustainability of their programs.
  - a. Assess and evaluate a sample of the 227 long term care facilities and 109 urgent care facilities located in CT. The site visit process will include:
    - Outreach to encourage participation and identification of HCF.
    - Coordinate a date for site visit that accommodates the HCF.
    - Prepare and send preliminary site visit documents to HCF. Monitor return of documents.
    - Conduct site visit assessment which will include: Introductions, Review of CDC's Infection Control Assessment Tool (ICAR), Observations of infection prevention practices, Provide feedback of assessment and educational resources at end of site visit.

- Prepare and send summary report of the assessment findings within approximately four weeks of the visit.
  - b. Develop education/training around infection control and prevention gaps for long term care facilities and others as determined by CT DPH.
  - c. Conduct assessment along with remediation for CT long term care and other CT health care facilities, including access to infection prevention and control educational training.
2. Provide infection prevention expertise to CT DPH on the development of infection prevention and control programs and infection control process improvement strategies.
  3. Review and develop infection prevention and control policies and procedures.
  4. Provide infection prevention consultative services and assistance to the CT DPH. .
    - a. Objectively and systematically assess, monitor, and improve the processes to ensure efficient and effective use of the grant funds.
  5. Work collaboratively on state-wide reporting and monitoring of antibiotic stewardship programs, including education and training at the state-wide level.

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:** Current licensure as a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse in the State of Connecticut with experience in infection control.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

Travel to HCF around CT will be required approximately two days per week. In addition, one day in the CT DPH office in Hartford, CT will be required.

**HOURS/SALARY:**

The Infection Preventionist - Nurse Consultant will be hired under a CT DPH contract with Interim Health Care of Hartford, 225 Oakland Road Suite 402 | South Windsor, CT 06074. The hours will range between 20 and 24 hours per week, three days per week (usually Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday). Compensation: \$45 per hour.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Please contact Lauren Backman, RN, MHS, Epidemiologist III, CT DPH HAI Program, ICAR Visit Team Lead at [lauren.backman@ct.gov](mailto:lauren.backman@ct.gov) or Tel: 860-509-7995.