

# Safety First

## Nursing Home Healthcare-Acquired Conditions

Improving Individual Patient Care Project Update

February 2012

### Project News



#### CARING COUNTS!

To help your facility provide resources to educate frontline staff, we've developed [Caring Counts](#), a one-page newsletter for those who work on the front lines of care. Click on the link above or on the image to download the premier issue!

Here are some suggestions for using *Caring Counts* at your facility:

- Print and make copies to distribute to staff with their paychecks or to supplement your educational efforts during employee meetings or in-services.
- Post copies in common areas such as employee break rooms or nursing stations.

### Project Reminders

#### FACILITY ASSESSMENT CHECKLISTS

Completing an assessment of your facility's clinical systems is an important first step in the Healthcare-Acquired Conditions (HAC) project. If you have not yet completed the checklist for pressure ulcers or restraints, please download the form(s) by clicking on the appropriate links below:

- [Pressure Ulcers Facility Assessment Checklist](#)
- [Restraints Facility Assessment Checklist](#)

Fax completed checklists to 216.447.7925 (Attn: Liz Simpson). We will be following up with each facility to review the results and begin action planning. Don't get left behind in the race for quality – complete your checklist today!



#### FEBRUARY TELECONFERENCES

- **Monthly Networking Call: Safety for Cognitively Impaired Residents**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**  
 Guided discussion for peer-to-peer information-sharing.  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/Feb2012Networking](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Feb2012Networking)  
*Future networking calls will take place the third Wednesday of each month.*
- **Going for the Gold – And Beyond!**  
**Thursday, February 23, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.**  
 Effective strategies for team development, frontline staff engagement, and more!  
 CEs for nurses are pending.  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/GoingGold](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GoingGold)

# Project Reminders

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## NURSING HOME SURVEY ON PATIENT SAFETY CULTURE

Do you know how your staff perceives your facility's safety culture? The Patient Safety Culture Survey can help you gain an understanding of staff perception, a key component of any quality improvement project. Many nursing homes have already conducted the survey. As facility reports are finalized and printed, your Ohio KePRO Quality improvement specialist will contact you to set up a time to review the information. If your facility has not yet conducted this important assessment, please email [Liz Simpson](mailto:Liz.Simpson@kepro.org) at your earliest convenience or call 216.503.5788.



## Resources

### WHAT IS PATIENT SAFETY?

In long-term care, "patient safety" is often associated with environmental concerns based on life safety code (e.g., water temperature, gaps in door frames, timely emergency drills). While life safety codes are important for the health and well-being of nursing home residents, there is a broader sense of the term "patient safety" in the current round of Quality Improvement Organization projects. As outlined in the [National Quality Strategy](#), patient safety is an element of the aim of "Better Care"; other elements include improving the overall quality of care, and making healthcare more patient-centered, reliable and accessible. The National Quality Strategy advises healthcare providers to be "relentless in their efforts to reduce the risk for injury from care, aiming for zero harm whenever possible and striving to create a system that reliably provides high-quality health care for everyone." With the HAC project, Ohio KePRO is working with facilities like yours throughout the state to demonstrate our commitment to reducing and preventing pressure ulcers and reducing or eliminating physical restraints.

### FREE STAFF EDUCATION TOOLKIT

In observance of Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week (February 14–21), the [National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners](#) is offering a free toolkit with a wide range of resources focusing on culture change and innovative ideas in staff education. Available to members and non-members, you can register for the toolkit on the [NCCDP website](#) now through March 1.

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