PROJECT OVERVIEW


**Description:** As expressed by CDC (SHEPheRD RFTOP 25-007), translating the lessons learned from U.S. Ebola Virus Disease cases in 2014, including the importance of core infection prevention practices such as use of personal protective equipment, to every setting where individuals receive healthcare is a significant opportunity to increase the safety of all U.S. healthcare facilities. A great majority of healthcare delivery is transitioning from acute, inpatient settings to outpatient settings. For example, more than three-quarters of all surgeries in the U.S. are performed in outpatient settings and each year more than one million cancer patients receive outpatient chemotherapy, radiation therapy or both at an outpatient facility. As this transition occurs, outbreaks of disease and patient notification events related to unsafe practices are increasing, demonstrating the needs for greater understanding and implementation of basic infection prevention and control guidance in these settings. Providing this care under conditions that minimize or eliminate risks of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) is critical.

The goal of this project is to expand the reach, uptake, and adoption of infection prevention and control guidelines and materials to prevent healthcare associated infections in outpatient settings. Guidelines and materials include CDC’s existing suite of outpatient-related guidance documents as well as future adaptations of model infection control plans with accompanying materials developed under this contract. To achieve the project goal, the Joint Commission and CDC will identify, select, and work with 12 outpatient-focused professional organizations (e.g., medical specialties that primarily serve ambulatory patient populations), and 10 outpatient-focused healthcare systems. Major activities include:

- Evaluation of organizations’ and systems’ infection prevention and control guidelines and materials to identify gaps and inconsistencies (compared to CDC’s outpatient-related suite of materials) and opportunities to increase awareness of CDC guidance.
- Adaptation of model infection control plans and accompanying communication materials for outpatient-focused professional organizations.
- Dissemination of CDC’s suite of outpatient-related materials and adapted model infection control plans with accompanying materials via a variety of delivery methods (e.g., in-person, electronically) and venues to increase reach, uptake, and adoption of guidelines and materials in outpatient settings.

The Joint Commission will also engage with local chapters of outpatient-focused professional organizations, state health departments and healthcare preparedness coalitions that have an interest in increasing/enhancing infection prevention and control in their jurisdictions.

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