

## **Evaluation of antimicrobial stewardship and infection control practices in long-term care facilities in Pennsylvania**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health Get Smart Program is sending this note to thank you and members of your organization for responding to an ongoing survey entitled, “Evaluation of antimicrobial stewardship and infection control practices in long-term care facilities (LTCF). in Pennsylvania.” To increase response rate, we would appreciate your help in encouraging the remaining facilities to complete the survey. The survey was first e-mailed to an infection control designee in all licensed long-term care facilities in the Commonwealth on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and we have sent subsequent reminders.

This survey is an important first step in our effort to better understand the status of antimicrobial stewardship programs and infection control practices that currently exist in Pennsylvania LTCFs. Completing the survey is voluntary; however, a high participation rate would enable a meaningful needs assessment of what is happening. We believe a high response rate would benefit members of your organization for the following reasons:

- The survey would provide a meaningful statewide estimate of the status of antimicrobial stewardship and infection control practices in LTCFs.
- Results would comprehensively identify obstacles and challenges that facilities face in implementing antimicrobial stewardship programs, especially in the setting of recent LTCF-specific requirements by CMS.
- The survey would better assess challenges and barriers in implementing effective infection control practices that are unique to LTCFs.
- It would assist the Department of Health by providing meaningful data that would subsequently be used to design better targeted programs and educational interventions.

Thank you for assisting the Department of Health in this effort.

Sincerely,

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