



MHA
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September 30, 2011

Dear Colleague:

Maryland has been invited to join the next cohort of a very exciting opportunity to reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) rates. *On the CUSP: Stop CAUTI* is much like *On the CUSP: Stop BSI*, an initiative to reduce central line-associated blood stream infections that many of you have been participating in for close to a year.

On the CUSP: Stop CAUTI is an 18-month project to reduce CAUTI rates in participating units by at least 25 percent, and to improve safety culture by using the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) model and tools to improve teamwork and communication.

This initiative is funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and will be led by the Maryland Hospital Association with support from the Maryland Patient Safety Center and the Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care, and in partnership with the American Hospital Association's Health Research & Educational Trust, the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality, the University of Michigan Health System, St. John Hospital and Medical Center, and the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety & Quality.

As you know, the Maryland Hospital Association's Board of Directors has approved a three-year strategic plan that includes the goal of a **zero** CAUTI rate for Maryland's hospitals. Our state cannot achieve this goal without your participation!

By agreeing to participate, your hospital will receive all the information and resources you need to succeed, including consultation and coaching, at no cost.

Along with this letter are four attachments: a summary of the initiative, the case for participating, a list of team members to be assembled and their estimated time commitment, and a simple commitment form that we urge you to fill out and return by October 21. This is short notice, but the opportunity to join the national initiative begins with a kick-off meeting on November 14, followed by a series of informational calls. Data collection will begin in January. Once you commit, further important documents will be forwarded to the project leader you assign to the initiative.

We look forward to receiving your commitment form, and thank you for helping us make patient care better for all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmela Coyle'.

Carmela Coyle
President & CEO