



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
Residential Care Services Division
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

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EDUCATION, QUALITY & INFECTION PREVENTION (EQuIP) FOR LONG-TERM CARE

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

Residential Care Services would like to bring to your attention new resources available to promote antimicrobial stewardship in long-term care settings. Qualis Health, in partnership with the Washington State Department of Health, various health care associations, and local chapters of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC), has created programs of support and education to improve infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship in long-term care.

The Jump Start Stewardship Workbook for Nursing Homes is a valuable tool that facilities can use to create a framework and strategic plan for implementing an antibiotic stewardship program tailored to their facility's own unique characteristics. The EQuIP program (Education, Quality and Infection Prevention) provides healthcare facility staff with educational support to improve:

- infection prevention
- antimicrobial stewardship, and
- quality of care
- quality improvement

The EQuIP program also offers valuable webinars related to antimicrobial stewardship. Information about both of these programs, and more, can be found at the following link: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/HealthcareAssociatedInfections/EQuIP/LTC>

Nursing Homes can utilize the resources, tools and programs on the website to promote and encourage antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention in their facilities.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of nursing home residents. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Abbott at (360) 725-2489 or amy.abbott@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

"Transforming Lives"