



October 3, 2008

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

As you are aware, Act 52 has mandated nursing homes to report healthcare associated infections to the Department of Health, as well as the Patient Safety Authority. Mandatory reporting is tentatively slated to begin during the second quarter of 2009. To support identification, reporting and most of all prevention of healthcare associated infections in nursing homes, we are pleased to announce that the Department of Health is making available mini-grants of up to \$1000 per nursing care facility (nursing home) to support accurate identification and reporting of health care-associated infections. Mini-grant awards are to support infection control and surveillance education (i.e. trainings, presentations, conference sessions, forums, workshops, etc.) and related materials and expenses.

Enclosed is a copy of the "2008-2009 Nursing Home Mini-Grant Award Guidelines for Infection Control & Surveillance Training". Please review this document carefully. Attachment A must be completed, mailed and received by the Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Section by November 26, 2008 to be eligible to receive the award. The Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Section will award one mini-grant of up to \$1000.00 to each eligible nursing home that submits an acceptable completed Nursing Home Mini-Grant Award Notice and Acceptance Attestation received by November 26, 2008.

We encourage you to take advantage of this funding opportunity and obtain infection control and surveillance training for the individual(s) responsible for infection control activities within your facility. To return Attachment A or if you have any questions or concerns about this notice or the mini-grant awards, please contact our office at:

Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Section  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Forum Place  
555 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Phone: 717-425-5422 | Fax: 717-525-5514

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William R. Cramer', written in a cursive style.

William R. Cramer, Director  
Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Section