

MEMO

To: Kathleen Collins Pagels, Emergency Preparedness and Infection Control (EPIC) Program Manager

Date: February 8, 2021

Subject: **GRANT DELIVERABLE:** EPIC Review of Arizona Infection Control Deficiency Status vs. Other Similar States

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As required by the EPIC grant deliverables, the EPIC clinical team collected data to better understand how Arizona compared with other states related to infection control (IC) survey deficiencies. We identified nine additional states that were close in number to the Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) licensed in Arizona. These states represent seven of the 10 CMS districts. Upon analysis of this data, we concluded that ***Arizona had no outstanding variances from the other nine states and fell mostly in the middle of the data points identified.***

Data Findings

- These findings are from the CASPER system and represent the time frame for fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

- The states reflected here (that most closely reflect the same numbers of facilities as Arizona) and their CMS regions include:
 - Maine – region I
 - West Virginia – region III
 - South Carolina – region IV
 - Mississippi – region IV
 - Nebraska – region VII
 - South Dakota – region VIII
 - Utah – region VIII
 - Arizona – region IX
 - Oregon – region X
 - Washington – region X

- The total number of infection control deficiencies during this time frame for these 10 states was 2,453 with an average of 245. The range was from 117 to 593. *Arizona had 185 and ranked at #6 of 10.*

- Of these 2,453 infection control deficiencies, 76 were cited at an immediate jeopardy (IJ) level. The range of IJ deficiencies per state ranged from 3 to 19. One state (Nebraska) had none. *Arizona had 7 and ranked at #5 of 10.*
- The majority of IC deficiencies were cited at a “D” or “E” level – 1944 total or an average of 194 D/E IC deficiencies per state. Maine had the fewest at 105 at this level while Washington had the most at 459. *Arizona had 167 and ranked at #5 of 10.*
- Of the total number of deficiencies (2,453), 3.09% were at an IJ level; 43% were at a “D” level; and 36% were at an “E” level.

These data revealed that Arizona is not an outlier in infection control survey violations. Arizona falls in the mainstream of citations in comparative states. Arizona was clearly cited for infection control deficiencies at a comparable frequency, scope and severity as states similar in size. This is important information, demonstrating that we are doing no better or worse in infection control surveys than other analogous states. It also gives us incentive to continue our compelling efforts in infection control facility education through the EPIC program, as there is definite room for improvement.