



# INFECTION PREVENTION

## St. Elizabeth Rehab and Nursing Center - Baltimore City, MD

In recognition of ongoing commitment to infection prevention and control.

**ST·ELIZABETH**  
REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION

### Partnering with the QIN-QIO to Implement Infection Prevention and Control Interventions

#### BACKGROUND

St. Elizabeth Rehabilitation and Nursing Center provides a comprehensive array of individualized rehabilitation and nursing services, including short-term rehabilitation, skilled nursing, long-term, and memory care. It is a 162-bed facility located in Baltimore City, Maryland. St. Elizabeth is composed of five unique neighborhoods, each featuring an accessible open-air space, a family-oriented living room, a cozy hearth, and a spacious dining room. Every neighborhood is overseen by a dedicated Neighborhood Guide who acts as a liaison and advocates for each resident.

St. Elizabeth's clinical and leadership team, driven by a desire to reduce the facility's rate of urinary tract infections (UTIs) and to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 within the facility, actively participated in numerous IPRO QIN-QIO initiatives related to infection prevention and control.

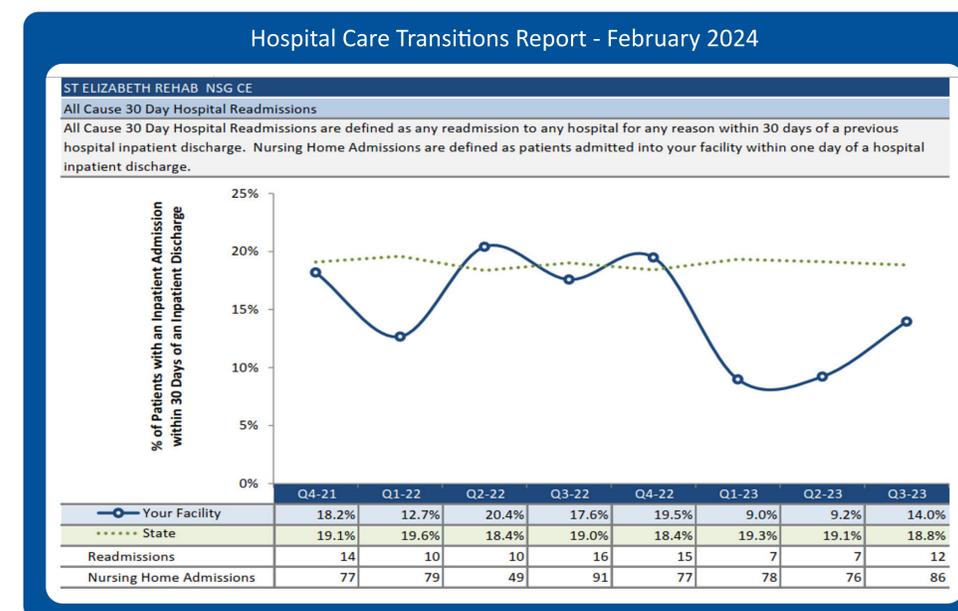


#### APPROACH

St. Elizabeth's commitment to healthcare quality improvement is manifested by its Infection Preventionist /QAPI coordinator's participation in IPRO QIN-QIO educational programs. Activities in which the IP participated include:

- The IPRO UTI Learning Circle from January until May of 2023
- IPRO Infection Prevention for Infection Preventionists with an Infection Preventionist (IP3) meetings
- IPRO Antibiotic Stewardship Workgroup

As a direct outcome of that participation, the IP implemented a SMART goal related to Antibiotic Stewardship at the facility, created a hand hygiene plan for improvement, and worked with the Qlarant pharmacist to locate COVID-19 vaccines for the facility. The Administrator, Director of Nursing and Infection Preventionist have attended 65 educational opportunities offered by IPRO, and seven LAN events.



#### RESULTS

St. Elizabeth is using the IPRO infection tracking tool and has added Antibiotic Stewardship as part of their weekly at-risk meetings. The IP/QAPI coordinator, along with the clinical team, which includes the nurse managers, DON, ADON and medical director, review current antibiotics. A major focus has been urinary tract infections and unnecessary antibiotic use. Although the rate of urinary tract infections did not change significantly, it has begun to trend downward over the past three months.

In addition, the rate of all cause 30-day hospital readmissions dropped from 20.4% in Q2 of 2022 to 9.2% in Q2 of 2023.

#### CONCLUSIONS

As the facility focused on strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19, many of the interventions they implemented reduced the incidence of other infections as well. These activities resulted in a significant reduction of the facility's 30-day hospital readmission rate.

Going forward, the facility team will continue to implement the CDC Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes and use tools from the IPRO Antibiotic Stewardship workgroup to enhance its Antibiotic Stewardship Committee.