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January 21, 2025

Doris Lefkowitz  
AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Lefkowitz:

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) wishes to thank the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for providing the opportunity to comment on the AHRQ Safety Program for Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention. APIC is a nonprofit, multidisciplinary organization representing 15,000 infection preventionists (IPs) whose mission is to advance the science and practice of infection prevention and control. IPs work in healthcare facilities, public health, and other healthcare settings to identify, monitor, report, and prevent healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

APIC supports AHRQ's proposal to update toolkits, provide support for Patient Safety surveys, and create forums and opportunities for healthcare sites to share information and learn from each other. Our members frequently cite these projects as important and useful resources to enhance their infection reduction efforts.

We appreciate AHRQ's proposal to include IPs in the stages and data collections outlined in the information collection project. To further strengthen this initiative, we recommend including APIC and individual IPs as up-front reviewers in the toolkit revision process. APIC welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with AHRQ and its contractor to execute this important project.

APIC also recommends that clinical outcomes data collection align with the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to ensure the use of the most accurate and standardized HAI data.

APIC stands ready to provide leadership, resources, and expertise in toolkit development, educational support, and dissemination of best practices. We look forward to partnering with AHRQ to advance the shared goal of reducing HAIs and improving patient safety nationwide.



Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "McLay", with a yellow highlight underneath.

Carol M. McLay, DrPH, MPH, RN, FAPIC, CIC  
2025 APIC President