



Dear CEO,

Most of you are aware of the statistics, clinical as well as financial, related to central line associated bloodstream infections, often referred to as CLABSIs or BSIs. Some of you may have already begun tackling this safety issue in your respective hospitals, while others may be struggling to find a proven, evidence-based, systematic methodology to achieve sustainable results. With the support of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City (BCBSKC), we are excited to invite your hospital to join the STOP BSI Collaborative, a partnership among Greater Kansas City and Northwest Missouri hospitals, the Missouri Hospital Association (MHA), the Missouri Center for Patient Safety and Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to eliminate CLABSIs in the BCBSKC service area. As a hospital located in Johnson or Wyandotte County, Kansas, please know that the STOP BSI collaborative is working directly with the Kansas City Metropolitan Healthcare Council, the Kansas Hospital Association, and MHA to implement the initiative across the bi-state metropolitan area.

The STOP BSI Collaborative is modeled after the pioneering efforts of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association and JHU in reducing CLABSIs in Michigan ICUs. Through a series of back-to-basics patient safety interventions led by JHU researcher Peter Pronovost, M.D., Ph.D., the infection rate in 103 participating Michigan ICUs decreased by 66 percent between March 2004 and June 2005. The typical ICU cut its quarterly infection rate to zero! Further, Michigan's infection rates fell so low that its average ICU outperformed 99 percent of ICUs nationwide. In addition to improved, sustained clinical outcomes, participating hospitals reported saving 1,578 patient lives, 81,020 hospital days and more than \$165.5 million health care dollars. The results of this landmark study have been published in the New England Journal of Medicine. For those interested, the full article is accessible at the following link: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/355/26/2725>.

By joining the STOP BSI Collaborative, Greater Kansas City and Northwest Missouri hospitals have a unique opportunity to replicate, if not surpass, the successes achieved by our Michigan counterparts. To that end, we would like to invite you to learn more about the collaborative by reviewing the enclosed materials:

1. STOP BSI Collaborative Information Sheet and Commitment Form
2. May 19, 2009 letter from JHU researcher Peter Pronovost, M.D. Ph.D., introducing the STOP BSI project
3. July 30, 2008 letter from HHS Acting Director Ivor Pritchard, Ph.D., explaining the IRB exemption for the STOP BSI project
4. Schedule of weekly National Immersion Calls during July and August, and Missouri's Kick off in-person meeting in September

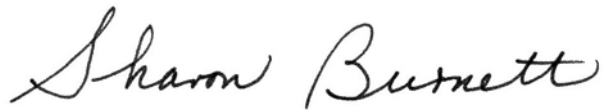
If your organization is interested in joining the collaborative, please complete and submit the enclosed commitment form as soon as possible. If you want to learn more about the project, we encourage you to visit the STOP BSI web site at [www.safercare.net](http://www.safercare.net). Of particular importance, we encourage *all* of you, regardless of your commitment level at this time, to participate on the first **National Immersion Call, "Project Overview – Teams," on July 7, 2009**. Johns Hopkins faculty will facilitate this call, and we expect a lot of insight to be shared and questions to be answered during this first "learning session" call. The details of this call are located on the enclosed "National Immersion Call and Meeting Schedule."

Should you have any questions about the collaborative, please do not hesitate to contact Project Manager, Kimberly O'Brien, at (888) 935-8272 or [kobrien@mocps.org](mailto:kobrien@mocps.org). We look forward to partnering with you to STOP BSIs in Greater Kansas City and Northwest Missouri!

Sincerely,



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