

Date: October 1, 2013

To: All North Carolina Healthcare Providers

From: Megan Davies, MD, State Epidemiologist

**Re: State Requirements for Infection Prevention in Health Care Settings**

This memo is intended to remind all North Carolina healthcare providers of state requirements for infection prevention in health care settings and to provide resources for meeting these requirements.

North Carolina Administrative Code Rule 10A NCAC 41A .0206 (“Rule .0206”) establishes requirements for infection prevention in health care settings. According the Rule .0206, **every health care organization that performs invasive procedures is required to do the following:**

1. **Implement a written infection control policy;**
2. **Ensure that health care workers in its employ or who have staff privileges are trained in the principles of infection control and the practices required by the policy;**
3. **Require and monitor compliance with the policy; and**
4. **Update the policy as needed to prevent transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other bloodborne pathogens.**

Rule .0206 defines a health care organization as any organization that provides clinical care. **Invasive procedures are broadly defined to include the use of needles to puncture skin, vaginal and cesarean deliveries, surgery, and dental procedures during which bleeding may occur.**

**Rule .0206 requires that each health care organization that performs invasive procedures designate one on-site staff member for each non-contiguous facility to direct infection prevention activities. The designated staff member in each**

**health care facility must complete a state-approved course in infection control.**

The **North Carolina Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (SPICE)** has developed state-approved courses in infection control for a variety of healthcare settings including acute care, long-term care, home health and hospice, dental, and outpatient. **Courses for outpatient, dental, hospice and home health settings are currently available on-line.**

I want to take this opportunity to re-emphasize the importance of infection control in all healthcare settings and to encourage you to ensure that your practice is compliant with these North Carolina Administrative Code requirements.

For more information about state-approved infection control courses, visit [spice.unc.edu/courses](http://spice.unc.edu/courses) or call SPICE at 919-966-6383.