AHRQ’s Safety Program for Nursing Homes: On-Time Falls Prevention Facilitator Training: Overview of On-Time

This version of On-Time introduction is for training Facilitators who have not had pressure ulcer prevention training. If they have had that training, this set of slides can be omitted or may be used as a refresher.

**Slide 1: Overview of On-Time**
Welcome to the On-Time Falls Prevention Facilitator Training. This 2-day Facilitator training will provide an overview of On-Time, including the use of electronic reports and a common implementation strategy that uses a Self-Assessment Worksheet, a Menu of Implementation Strategies, and the Implementation Steps and Timeline. The training also explains the role of the Facilitator in working with the nursing home Change Team to integrate reports into existing workflow.

The training will then provide detailed instruction for Facilitators on the content of all Falls Prevention materials. Participants will then gain hands-on practice using the reports and implementation materials. In addition, they will engage in exercises to help them master the basic information needed to facilitate the integration of the electronic reports into a nursing home’s workflow.
Slide 3: Introduction to On-Time

On-Time is a unique approach to quality improvement that focuses on the use of electronic reports and multidisciplinary team collaboration to support clinical decision making and prevent adverse events that affect nursing home residents. It uses the electronic medical record, or EMR, to make staff aware of residents at risk of adverse events such as pressure ulcers, falls, and preventable hospital and ED visits.

On-Time provides clinical reports to help staff develop and implement appropriate interventions. Finally, it uses Facilitators to help integrate these reports into existing workflow.
What problem are we trying to solve?

- Nursing home staff generally do a good job of investigating and following up after an adverse event, such as a fall or a pressure ulcer, or a hospitalization of a resident that could have been prevented. They talk to the resident and staff to figure out what happened when that resident fell or how that pressure ulcer developed, or what event triggered the hospital visit.

- It is more difficult for staff to identify which residents are at risk for a fall or pressure ulcer or hospitalization. Although the information is available, it is not organized so that staff can easily identify those with changing risk and get sufficient information about their condition and treatments to make timely changes to care plans.

- What if we could get in front of these events? In other words, if we knew who was at high risk or had a recent change in risk, would we do things differently to intervene before the event occurred?

- For example, pneumonia is the most common condition associated with potentially avoidable hospitalizations. If preventive measures are in place for pneumonia, or the pneumonia is identified early, it may be safely treated in a nursing home with oral antibiotics and other measures.

- Similarly, if we were aware that Mrs. Jones had had a change to her medications that might make her a little dizzy, wouldn't we be sure to instruct the nursing assistant to stay close by when she was ambulating to prevent a fall?

**Trainer Note:** Engage participants in a discussion using the questions below. Customize the questions to fit the audience.
Slide 5: Discussion

- Can you think of any other examples when knowledge of risk factors might be used to prevent falls?
- What are obstacles to staff obtaining the information needed to identify residents who need changes in care plans? To intervene early? To intervene appropriately?
Slide 6: On-Time Reports for Four Adverse Events

SAY:

There are four sets of On-Time reports to help prevent four adverse events: pressure ulcers, pressure ulcers that are not healing appropriately, falls, and preventable hospitalizations.

Note to Trainer:

Sample materials used during this session are provided in the Overview Materials packet. In the packet are the following Falls Prevention documents:

- Falls High-Risk Report
- Quarterly Summary of Falls Risk Factors (by Unit or Facility)
- Monthly Contextual Factors Report (by Unit or Facility)
- Postfall Assessment Summary Report (by Resident)

Each participant should be provided with the Overview Materials packet before beginning the session.
Slide 7: Common Elements of On-Time

SAY:

On-Time prevention uses a set of electronic reports and implementation materials. The implementation materials include a Self-Assessment Worksheet, a Menu of Implementation Strategies, and the Implementation Steps and Timeline.

On-Time has the following features:

- Includes reports developed from electronic medical records (EMRs) that identify residents with increased risk who may need changes in care to prevent adverse events;
- Provides clinical information in weekly reports that help clinical staff intervene in a more timely and appropriate way;
- Provides worksheets to help staff members assess how they currently identify changes in risk, make intervention decisions, and identify ways to integrate On-Time reports into day-to-day clinical discussions;
- Uses a Facilitator to help staff understand the reports and to guide them on how to integrate these reports into day-to-day clinical decisionmaking; and
- Encourages discussions of at-risk residents on a weekly basis using electronic reports with input from relevant staff (e.g., nursing assistants, director of nursing [DON], wound nurses, dietary, rehab, and pharmacy).

The goal is for the nursing home team to use the On-Time risk report on a weekly basis and encourage multidisciplinary input (e.g., certified nursing assistants [CNAs], DON, wound nurses, dietary, rehab, primary care physician, and pharmacy) to identify timely interventions that will help prevent adverse events.
Slide 8: Role of the Facilitator

SAY:

A nursing home intending to use On-Time reports needs to establish a multidisciplinary Change Team, including a champion to help lead the effort in the nursing home. The role of the Facilitator is to educate the nursing home Change Team about On-Time and guide them through the implementation process.

Typically, a Facilitator will have one onsite visit and mostly interact by telephone conference calls with the Change Team. The intensity and duration of help provided may depend on the facility team’s progress.

Once the reports are available in the EMR, facilitation with the Change Team will take place over a period of 6 to 9 months. The Facilitator will also monitor the team to ensure that they can sustain the program. After that, the facility should be able to make this program part of their policies and procedures and no longer need the help of a Facilitator.

The On-Time Facilitator will:

- Establish a relationship with the Change Team.
  - Introduce On-Time and relevant electronic reports.
  - Develop and customize a plan to implement the electronic reports with the team based on the Implementation Steps.
  - Review program expectations and establish a plan for regular communication.
  - Guide the Change Team to implement the program.
  - Provide ongoing support and coaching to the team members to provide training on report contents and guide implementation of reports into day-to-day practice.
  - Encourage the team to complete the Self-Assessment Worksheet to understand current processes used by the nursing home for risk identification, staff communication, and clinical decisions to help prevent the adverse event of interest.
  - Study the completed self-assessment to identify ways the On-Time reports can help staff adjust care plans to prevent adverse events.
- Help the team use the Menu of Implementation Strategies to identify ways to integrate reports into current preventive practices.
- Help the team develop a piloting strategy for fully integrating reports into daily practice.
- Help the team problem solve obstacles that occur during the implementation process.

- Monitor progress by:
  - Tracking implementation progress based on accomplishing Implementation Steps; and
  - Tracking impact with process and outcome measures, which includes helping to identify measures the Change Team can use to monitor its progress.
Nursing homes that want to implement an On-Time program must have the following in place:

- EMR vendor willing to provide access to On-Time reports.
- Commitment from key leadership, including the DON or administrator.
- Commitment to provide high-quality data elements to populate reports.
- Multidisciplinary Change Team and designated team champion.
- Commitment to work with a Facilitator to learn how to use the reports to prevent adverse events.
Slide 10: Functional Specifications and EMR Vendors

SAY:

Functional specifications are available for EMR vendor programmers to develop the reports as designed. Nursing homes will need to work with their vendor to determine the availability of data elements required for each report and to verify that staff are collecting accurate data to populate the needed data elements and collecting information needed for the reports. Nursing homes must be aware of any software updates that may affect availability of reports.
Before the Facilitator begins working with the staff on On-Time training and implementation, the Facilitator should:

- Provide input on the composition of the Change Team and selection of the program champion. The team should be multidisciplinary, and there is a core team of essential members, depending on the adverse event selected and the key risk factors involved. For example, for some adverse events, the dietitian is an important member of the team because declining nutrition is a key risk factor. The core team should minimally include clinical leadership (DON or assistant DON), nurse managers, and nursing assistants. The staff educator may be important as well if retraining is needed, for example, due to turnover of staff. The program champion should be someone with a high level of interest in and enthusiasm for the program and with the authority to make assignments as needed.

- Meet with the program champion to explain the facilitation role in the implementation process, discuss facility responsibilities, and plan how the program champion and Facilitator will work together.

- Verify that the reports are in the system and can be accessed in a timely manner. Ask each team member to access the report to ensure that all have “permission” to see the report, and test that the report can be printed.
Work on On-Time started in 2003. It was developed with funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Development of each set of reports began with a detailed literature review of risk factors associated with the adverse event of interest. The reports were designed with input from a workgroup composed of nursing home staff with knowledge of nursing home operations. They provided input on the design and content of the reports and helped assess the reports for usefulness, appropriateness, and feasibility. Clinicians and leading medical experts also provided input.

Reports were then tested in actual clinical settings to confirm that reports were feasible for use in clinical practice and did not impede clinical workflow. The design process resulted in functional specifications for nursing home EMR vendors to use in developing the software to generate the reports.

Some of the parts have been subjected to evaluation studies to assess their impact on patient outcomes. For example:

- Pressure Ulcer Prevention has been pilot tested in more than 50 nursing homes across the country; several studies have shown significant reductions in pressure ulcer incidence rates when On-Time pressure ulcer prevention reports were integrated into day-to-day workflow.
- Pressure Ulcer Healing, Falls, and Avoidable Hospitalization reports and worksheets have been tested for feasibility and usefulness and content is based on review of the published literature, guidelines, and assessment instruments. The reports and implementation materials were reviewed by clinical experts and nursing home clinical staff.
Each report is designed to identify residents at risk for the adverse event of interest (e.g., pressure ulcers, falls, preventable hospital or emergency department visit) and to provide clinical information that clinical staff can use to develop and implement appropriate interventions. These snapshots may be displayed at the resident, unit, or facility level.

Some of the reports provide data from multiple time points to allow staff to observe trends over time. Some identify a profile of risk factors; others focus on a particular risk factor. Others help identify a history of changes in risk factors or treatment history to help staff understand underlying causes of risk changes.

For each report, examples are provided of meetings and huddles where report information could be added to the agenda. Some suggested uses may require staff to establish a new huddle or meeting to focus on the report’s content rather than incorporating its discussion into an existing staff meeting.

Most reports are updated weekly. A few reports are designed to be used monthly or quarterly.

It is important for you to become familiar with each report so you can answer questions. That way, the Change Team can understand what is being presented and will trust the accuracy of the reports. If there are continued concerns with accuracy, the team may need to check report data with actual records. This process is covered later in the training.
Slide 14: Examples of On-Time Reports

SAY:

To become more familiar with various types of electronic reports used in On-Time, let’s look at a sample of reports that are used for Falls Prevention. These are included in your Overview Materials Packet.

DO:

- Review the On-Time Falls Prevention Reports.
- Point out the features and organization of report information.
  - *Falls Risk Report* provides clinicians with a weekly snapshot of residents in the nursing home at highest risk for an injurious fall and is sorted by the most changes during the last week.
  - *Quarterly Summary of Fall Risk Factors Report* provides information regarding the number and percentage of falls that have occurred for residents with each risk factor included in the Falls High-Risk Report.
  - *Monthly Contextual Factors Report* displays facility trends by contextual factor. This report will enhance teams’ ability to:
    - Identify trends and patterns by nursing unit and target followup with staff.
    - Provide educational inservices as needed and develop new or adjust existing prevention strategies.
    - Compare trends across nursing units to identify variances in trends and understand cause of variances.
    - Identify resident risk factors that may have caused a fall.
    - Improve timeliness of root cause analysis and audit processes.
    - Provide summarized fall data to improve prevention practices, make timely interventions, and identify the need for programmatic changes.
  - *Postfall Assessment Summary Report* identifies the circumstances and context of a fall and provides this
information for up to six falls. It helps staff identify trends for multiple fallers, support root cause analysis, and determine individualized care plan interventions.

MATERIALS:

- Falls High-Risk Report
- Quarterly Summary of Falls Risk Factors (by Unit or Facility)
- Monthly Contextual Factors Report (by Unit or Facility)
- Postfall Assessment Summary Report (by Resident)
Slide 15: Facilitator Discussion: Value of On-Time Reports

**DO:**

Use the following questions to lead a discussion with Facilitator trainees:

- In your experience, is the type of information displayed on the Falls Prevention reports currently available to nursing home staff? If so, where would they find it? How current would the information be?
- Do nursing home staff members rely on the MDS for this type of information? What do you see as a limitation in relying on the MDS? What other sources might they use?
- How do nursing home staff members pick up on subtle changes in residents’ risk status? Do they rely on verbal reports from nursing assistants? How is this information shared with the team?
- Can you see how these reports might be useful to nursing home staff?

**DO:**

[Reinforce the following points.]

The reports:

- Focus on preventing adverse events.
- Are proactive rather than reactive.
- Show recent changes in risks.
- Profile risks for each resident in the report.
- Prioritize residents for possible changes to their treatment plan.
- Help clinicians determine appropriate interventions.
Introducing the On-Time reports to nursing home staff will follow a similar process regardless of which reports you are teaching. When teaching a report, review the report information with trainees so they understand what documentation is used to populate the report and how all cell values are calculated.

Provide a sample report from the Materials to use as an example.

When discussing reports with the team:

- List the contents of the reports, explain the rules that determine which residents are included in the report, provide the report element definitions and sources of data, and answer questions that arise.
- Engage the team in a discussion of how they could obtain the information on the report without the report. The discussion should highlight the difficulties and time burden that would be required, using some of the questions below:
  - Is the information displayed on the On-Time reports currently available to you? If so, where would you find it? How current would the information be?
  - How do you pick up on subtle changes in residents’ risk status? Do you rely on verbal reports from nursing assistants? How is this information shared with the care team?
Nursing home staff implementing On-Time need to verify the reports’ accuracy. When reports are generated, staff will need to make sure the information presented on the residents agrees with their knowledge and assessment of these residents. If staff members lack confidence in the reports, it will limit their use of the reports.

If staff report that they believe that information on the On-Time reports is not accurate (e.g., residents appear on the reports who should not be there, residents are missing from reports, residents are less functional than report suggests, or information is illogical), the Facilitator should help the team arrive at an approach for checking accuracy. If a new problem arises, check if it is due to any software update.

The following steps represent one approach. The team may have other suggestions.

- Cross-check data in the On-Time report against medical record information.
  - Identify the questionable report variables.
  - Review the calculation details for the questionable variables. Check the accuracy of the data in the medical record contributing to the report variables.
  - Make corrections to the medical record as needed and rerun the report.
  - If inaccuracies persist after the medical record is accurate, it’s possible a software bug may be the issue. In this case, the facility should confer with their EMR vendor.
  - Check that EMR data are complete. Report elements will not generate unless at least 75 percent of the necessary documentation is available. Most EMR programs can run reports to show documentation completeness. Reports will vary based on EMR vendors but should help identify particular units, shifts, or employees who may need additional education or retraining.
Implementation materials consist of:

- Self-Assessment Worksheet.
- Menu of Implementation Strategies.
- Implementation Steps and Timeline.

The purpose of using these materials is to help the nursing home Change Team integrate the reports they choose into day-to-day practice and to encourage multidisciplinary input into clinical decisionmaking to help prevent adverse events.
The Self-Assessment is divided into four sections:

- **Screening.** These questions explore what the facility does to screen for risk of an adverse event. Questions seek details on the facility’s risk assessment approach and what, if any, type of standardized assessment tool they use, how frequently the assessment is completed, and by whom.

- **Prevention Plan.** This group of questions seeks information on what is included in their various prevention programs. For example, do they have daily weight orders for residents with congestive heart failure?

- **Communication.** This section asks what types of prevention care planning is discussed at staff meetings. It also asks which staff members are invited, who leads the meeting, and how often it occurs. This section also includes questions on what types of training have been offered.

- **Investigations/Root Cause Analysis.** This section asks the facility to describe their process for conducting investigations or root cause analyses when a resident has experienced a fall.

**DO:**

Provide a copy of the Falls Prevention Self-Assessment for participants to follow along as you describe the sections and questions.

**MATERIALS:**

- Falls Prevention Self-Assessment
The Self-Assessment Worksheet is designed to help nursing home staff review how they:

- Screen for risks;
- Mitigate risk;
- Prioritize residents who may need changes to care plans;
- Discuss care changes that are needed; and
- Investigate root causes when a fall occurs.

The questions in each Self-Assessment are tailored to the On-Time adverse event being addressed.
SAY:

The Facilitator encourages the team to complete the Self-Assessment Worksheet. The Facilitator reviews the completed worksheet to help the team identify which On-Time reports to use.

The goal is to focus on prevention improvement. The ultimate purpose is to identify specific ways the electronic reports can help the team:

- Identify opportunities to improve risk identification.
- Communicate risk changes as they occur.
- Improve the way residents are prioritized for possible treatment changes.
- Improve the process for recommending new interventions.
- Improve root cause analyses when adverse events occur.

The communication section of the Self-Assessment identifies current meetings and huddles that focus on preventing the adverse event of interest. Identifying existing meetings provides a basis for determining ways to integrate reports into existing processes.

The process for facilitating completion of the Self-Assessment and discussion with the Change Team of its findings is the same regardless of which set of reports is implemented. Discussion questions are tailored to the On-Time adverse event of interest.

Steps for ensuring completion of the Self-Assessment Worksheet follow:

- The Facilitator encourages the champion to form a Change Team and arrange for the Self-Assessment Worksheet to be completed.
- The Facilitator encourages the champion to lead a discussion of the filled in Self-Assessment Worksheet to help the Change Team decide how to use the On-Time reports to help prevent the adverse event of interest.
- If needed, the Facilitator may be included in that discussion to help suggest ways the reports can be integrated into their workflow.
Slide 22: Menu of Implementation Strategies

SAY:

The menu is a list of various types of meetings and interdisciplinary huddles that nursing home staff are asked to consider as options for incorporating the risk reports into their daily workflow. Some of the suggested meetings may already occur at the nursing home but may need to be restructured to incorporate the reports into resident care discussions.

For each meeting listed, the team can decide if an existing meeting would be enhanced if it included a discussion of a particular risk report, or if a new meeting is needed. The team may also opt to add meetings that are not listed on the worksheet. The menu also identifies recommended staff who should attend these meetings.

The menu includes meetings directly related to the adverse event of interest, but additional uses of these reports are included that may help in more general ways to improve preventive practices by focusing on a particular risk factor.

The menu is intended to be used with the list of existing meetings from the Self-Assessment Worksheet. Offering a menu of possible implementation strategies allows the change team to consider which strategies best fit within their workflow and meet needs of their facility, avoiding a “one size fits all” approach.

DO:

Review an example of the Falls Prevention Menu of Implementation Strategies. Point out how the menu is organized (by report) with options listed for types of meetings where the report could be used and who should attend. Two columns provide space for users to check which meetings already exist and which have to be created.

MATERIALS:

- Menu of Implementation Strategies
Slide 23: Facilitator Role: Using the Menu of Implementation Strategies

SAY:

The role of the Facilitator is to help the Change Team use the Menu of Implementation Strategies and the list of existing meetings from the Self-Assessment Worksheet to choose which On-Time reports they want to use at which meetings.

The process for reviewing the list of meetings on the Menu is the same regardless of which reports are implemented:

- Facilitator helps champion review the Self-Assessment list of existing team meetings and the Menu of Implementation Strategies, if needed.
- At a Change Team meeting, Facilitator helps Change Team use these tools to select team meetings or huddles and On-Time reports they want to discuss in these meetings. The Facilitator’s role is to help the team make decisions, answer questions, and describe how the reports can be used.

MATERIALS:

- Menu of Implementation Strategies
Slides 24 and 25: Facilitator Role: Incorporating Reports Into New Meetings

Once the team has chosen which reports will be used and the meetings or huddles that will be involved, the Facilitator’s role will be to help the Change Team consider their options for incorporating the On-Time reports into an existing meeting or creating a new meeting.

When the Change Team is thinking about adding a meeting, the Facilitator will use the following questions to help the team review all the relevant issues:

- Who will lead the approval effort?
- What administrative approvals will be needed?
- Who should be present at the meeting (remember that the On-Time reports are meant to be used by multiple disciplines)? When would the meeting occur? Include nurse aide input to select the meeting time that is least disruptive to their daily routine since they may have the least flexibility.
- Which reports will be used at the meeting?
- Who will be responsible for generating the report, reviewing the report in advance, determining which residents to discuss at the meeting, and retrieving from the medical record any additional information needed? How would followup steps be determined and what other input would be needed to make changes in the care plan or make new referrals?
- How will a timeline for changes and followup with CNAs and nurses be determined? How would communication occur with other disciplines to confirm changes in care?
When working with a Change Team that is considering using an existing meeting, consider the following:

- How much time would need to be added to the meeting if a new report were added for discussion?
- How would the meeting be structured? Could the new report discussion replace some of the time spent previously on other matters? Keep in mind, the goal is to minimize disruptions in how staff members share information about residents when adding reports to existing meeting discussions.
- Would everyone who needs to hear the information be present?
- Would some of the current attendees not need to be present for the report discussions if the meeting had multiple purposes?
The Change Team may have preferences for how they pilot the reports. Experience suggests that:

- Typically, facilities pilot one report in one unit to make the report review process as focused and short as possible.
- The team then pilots additional reports in one unit.
- Once the implementation of all reports in one unit is finalized, facilities typically implement facilitywide.
The goal of the On-Time implementation strategy is to incorporate the On-Time reports into day-to-day prevention activities and to ensure that multidisciplinary input is included in clinical intervention decisions.

The Implementation Steps were created to help nursing homes understand the practical steps that need to be completed to become independent in their use of the On-Time reports and the likely timeline to make the reports part of daily practice. It is intended to be used by the team champion and the Change Team members to help keep the effort on track and methodical.

The timeline is meant as a guide because quality improvement project timelines often vary depending on the quality improvement skills and resources available to the participating facilities.

Use generic Implementation Steps and Timeline handout.

Review Steps and discuss Facilitator role.

**MATERIALS:**

- Implementation Steps and Timeline
Slides 29 and 30: Facilitator Role: Monitoring Implementation Progress

As a Facilitator, you will monitor the progress of the implementation process. Throughout the implementation period, the Facilitator will communicate with each Change Team about its progress through the various implementation steps. The Facilitator is expected to document dates of completion for each step and to note any issues that have affected the facility’s progress.

Equally important will be the Facilitator’s monitoring of the team’s level of engagement. The Facilitator should continuously consider the following questions:

- Are key members of the Change Team participating in meetings on a regular basis? If not, determine who is missing and why.
- Has there been any significant turnover in staff either on the Change Team or leadership that may affect the team’s functioning? If so, the Facilitator may need to engage the nurse educator and the champion to establish a process for educating these new staff members to orient them to their role in relation to this project.
- Is the team cohesive? Are team members completing assignments on time? Do any barriers need to be addressed?
- Are there any operational issues, such as reports not available or difficult to print, or meeting space not available, that may be affecting the program’s progress?
- Have there been any major disruptions to implementation that may affect the continuity of the program? For example, staff may be involved with the annual State survey, followup surveys, or writing of the correction plan, if required. These issues will likely take precedence over the program implementation. The team may need some support and guidance to reengage and get back on track.

If the Facilitator notes any slowing or disruption of the implementation process, the Facilitator will work with the program champion to investigate the issues and help him or her devise a plan to address them.
Monitoring the impact of On-Time will be of interest to the Change Team and to facility management. Your role as Facilitator will be to assist the Change Team in selecting an outcome metric based on existing clinical data they collect. If the vendor already has programmed one of the aggregate reports, such as the Key Metric Trends Report, the facility will be able to identify unit changes in fall rates on a monthly basis for each unit and for the nursing home as a whole.

Alternatively, the nursing home can track falls manually, if this is not possible from the EMR. Month-to-month rates may fluctuate but a trend over 6 months or longer would suggest an impact. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services quality measures, reported on Nursing Home Compare, may also be used to monitor outcome trends, but these measures are reported less frequently.

The Facilitator should work with the champion to identify the best approach for measuring program outcomes.
Slide 32: Check Your Understanding

DO:

Select from the list below several questions to discuss with the group to verify their understanding of On-Time.

- What are the goals of On-Time?
- What are the key components of On-Time?
- List the Facilitator’s roles in implementing On-Time.
- What is the role of the program champion?
- How would you respond to questions regarding the accuracy of the reports?
- What is the Facilitator’s role in developing the piloting plan?
- What is the Facilitator’s role in prioritizing progress and impact of the program?
- How is the Menu of Implementation Strategies used in the implementation process?
- What is the Facilitator’s role in the Self-Assessment?