



Member of the Month

Amanda Bennett

Interviewed and written by Carol Samel

Years in Infection Prevention: 6

How did you get interested in Infection Prevention?

I worked as a Medical Laboratory Scientist in the Molecular Pathology Laboratory and then as Point of Care Coordinator. While working in the laboratory, I started working on my MPH. I heard about an opening in the Infection Prevention Department through a former colleague who was in the IP department. I completed my MPH and received a certificate in Infection Prevention from the University of South Florida after taking the position in IP. After working as an IP in the hospital setting for five years, I accepted a role in the Patient Safety Authority.

Describe your role in the Patient Safety Authority?

As an IP at the PSA, I collaborate with IPs in facilities in Pennsylvania. My current work is largely with IPs new to the role in LTC. I help to educate IPs on the requirements of MCARE Acts 13 and 52. I also act as a resource for IPs related to other infection prevention problems they may be experiencing.

Advice for New IPs: I learned the most and was able to make the largest impact when I went out to the patient care units and talked to the healthcare professionals in different roles. It is important to understand the roles and to connect with different healthcare professionals in order to impact infection prevention.

Accomplishments in Infection Prevention: I worked with my team to implement a 2-person dressing change for central lines, coupled with a change in the central line dressing. As a team with the nurse educators, we provided education to staff and then acted as the “second person” to perform the dressing changes until nurses were proficient. This was an important change in reducing CLABSIs and improving consistency in practice. An added benefit for myself was getting out on the units more, working

more closely 1:1 with clinical staff and having the opportunity to talk with patients. My advice to patients was “you are your own best advocate.” It is important for patients to feel empowered to ensure staff are washing their hands when providing care. It is also important that they receive education on any invasive devices they have.

Fun Facts

- Leisure time: loves to read, garden, and travel
- Enjoys cooking, especially using vegetables from her own garden
- Favorite travel location: Prague, it was unexpectedly cool.
- Location on the “bucket list”: Thailand
- Family: three children, two daughters 5 and 2 and a son who is 4 months old.
- Special interest in eco-friendly living



Amanda can be contacted at: amabennett@pa.gov