

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Ambulatory Surgical Center Edition Newsletter September 2014

Department of Health (Department) Updates

Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Guidance

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a final rule in the Federal Register on Dec. 10, 2013, that included healthcare personnel (HCP) influenza vaccination summary reporting from ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) that participate in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program. HCP data must be reported via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) [National Healthcare Safety Network \(NHSN\)](#), beginning with the 2014-2015 influenza season (October 1 through March 31). Please refer to the [Operational Guidance for ASCs document](#) for additional information.

CMS will only require participation from ASCs that participate in the ASCQR Program. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is requesting that ASCs participating in the ASCQR Program join and confer rights to the "Pennsylvania Department of Health ASCs" group in NHSN.

Corresponding training materials, protocol, forms and instructions are available on the NHSN website. The following information will assist ASCs during the enrollment process:

- Each CMS-licensed ASC with an ASC CMS certification number (CCN - 10 digits with a "C" in the 3rd position) should enroll in NHSN as a separate facility (i.e., they will have a unique NHSN OrgID), even if they are owned by or affiliated with a healthcare system or acute care hospital.
- If an ASC has the same CCN as the hospital, it should not be enrolled in NHSN as a separate facility. The HCP vaccination information for the ASC may continue to be included in the HCP data submitted by the hospital.
- During enrollment, the NHSN facility administrator should identify the facility as an "AMB-SURG - Outpatient Surgery Facility."
- During enrollment, the NHSN facility administrator should select the Healthcare Personnel Safety (HPS) component on the "Facility Enrollment page."

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Ambulatory Surgical Center Edition Newsletter September 2014

Resources and Information

Influenza 2014-15 Season

Although influenza seasons are generally considered to start in October, sporadic reports of influenza over the summer are not uncommon. This happens because the timing and intensity of flu activity is unpredictable and can vary from one season to another.

The 2012/13 season serves as a reminder that influenza seasons can start early and cause intense illness before many people are prepared or vaccinated. Early seasons also serve as a reminder that clinicians should recommend influenza vaccination when indicated and consider influenza diagnostic testing in persons presenting with flu-like symptoms as early as October.

The 2014/15 surveillance season will begin shortly. The Department of Health will be posting weekly flu updates on the [department website](#).

Safe Injection Practices – One and Only Campaign

The One and Only Campaign is a public health campaign aimed to raise awareness about safe injection practices and eliminate outbreaks from unsafe practices.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the [Safe Injection Practices Coalition](#) urge all healthcare professionals to use this new, dynamic [infographic](#) to learn the differences between single-dose and multiple-dose vials and to understand appropriate use of each. The infographic is an excellent resource for clinicians, office/risk managers and patients. Learning how to properly identify the two vials will prevent infections and can save lives.

The One and Only Campaign also recently created the following short videos to help facilities make healthcare safer, one injection at a time.

[Managing Patient Safety, One Injection at a Time](#)

[Check Your Steps! Make Every Injection Safe](#)

**Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention
Ambulatory Surgical Center Edition Newsletter
September 2014**

Resources and Information (continued)

Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert

The Joint Commission recently released a sentinel event alert [Issue 52, June 16, 2014](#) on preventing infection from the misuse of vials. This alert provides causes on the misuse of vials, as well as recommendations and potential strategies for improvement.

To receive these alerts by email or to view past sentinel event alerts, please visit www.jointcommission.org.

NHSN Contact Information

For NHSN help, please send an email to: nhsn@cdc.gov.

Remember to include the facility five-digit NHSN assigned ID number with your question.

CDC's NHSN website: www.cdc.gov/nhsn

Websites

www.oneandonlycampaign.org

www.health.state.pa.us

www.patientsafetyauthority.org

www.phc4.org

www.apic.org

www.shea-online.org

www.jcaho.org

www.osha.gov

www.cms.gov

Infection Control Plans

Although facilities are no longer required to submit updates to their infection control plan to the Department, facilities are expected to keep these plans updated to reflect current practices and include the components required by Act 52.

Questions related to the infection control plan may be directed to the Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention office at 717-425-5422.