

**Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention  
Ambulatory Surgical Center Edition Newsletter  
March 2015**

**NHSN Information**

**Health Care Personnel Influenza Vaccination Reminder**

Ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) that participate in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program must report health care personnel (HCP) influenza vaccination summary data via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for the 2014-2015 influenza season (October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015). For more information on collecting and entering this data into NHSN, please visit the CDC's [Surveillance for Healthcare Personnel Vaccination website](#). The deadline for the first ASC report to the NHSN for CMS payment requirements has been extended to August 15, 2015 from the original date of May 15, 2015. If a facility has not yet [enrolled in NHSN](#), please follow the steps outlined on the NHSN website. ASCs must enroll in NHSN a minimum of eight weeks before the new data submission deadline of August 15, 2015.

**NHSN Secure Access Management System (SAMS)**

There are two processes (the registration of an individual and the enrollment of the facility) required in order to have a user and a facility enroll in NHSN. The registration of an individual requires a person to complete an identity verification process through NHSN's SAMS. This process includes:

- ◆ Completing an identity verification form
  - ◇ Two forms of ID are required (one with a picture). Both ID's should have the same last name. If not, other verification may be required.
  - ◇ Form must be notarized prior to return to the CDC.
  - ◇ Home address must be provided in order for the SAMS card to be sent (this is part of the identity verification process).
- ◆ The SAMS card is for individual use only. This is not meant to be a facility card.

Instructions for the enrollment of a facility can be accessed in the link provided above.

**NHSN ASC Facility Administrator**

The person who enrolls a facility in NHSN is designated as the NHSN facility administrator. Only the NHSN facility administrator can reassign his/her role to another user. If the facility administrator is unavailable to make the change, the facility may formally request a reassignment in writing on facility letterhead to NHSN. The letter must include the name of the new administrator, phone number, email address, and NHSN facility ID.

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**Resources and Information**

**Outbreak and Patient Notifications**

The CDC provides information and resources regarding [outbreaks and patient notifications](#) to assist health departments and health care facilities. This website also provides safety alerts regarding the recent endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) duodenoscope cluster and the FDA and CDC investigation of simulated IV saline solution being administered to patients.

**Partnering to Heal Training Program**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion recently announced the re-launch of "Partnering to Heal," a computer-based, video-simulation training program on infection control practices for clinicians, health professional students, and patient advocates.

The training is designed for health professional schools and health care facilities. "Partnering to Heal" is a Virtual Experience Immersive Learning Simulation (VEILS<sup>®</sup>) that addresses the prevention of healthcare-associated infections and the serious consequences they have on thousands of lives each year. The training highlights effective communication about infection control practices and ideas for creating a "culture of safety" in health care institutions to keep patients from getting sicker. Users assume the identity of five main characters (a physician, nurse, infection prevention expert, patient family member, and medical student) to make decisions about preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

[Partnering to Heal: Teaming Up Against Healthcare-Associated Infections](#)



**NHSN Contact Information**

For NHSN help, please send an email to: [nhsn@cdc.gov](mailto: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](http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn)