

**Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention
Hospital Edition Newsletter
March 2015**

Department of Health Updates

Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority Recognitions

The Patient Safety Authority recently recognized 18 health care workers for their efforts to improve patient safety within their health care facility. The Patient Safety Authority holds the “I Am Patient Safety” poster contest each year from May to October. Winners are announced during Patient Safety Awareness Week. To view the individuals and groups recognized from this year’s contest, please visit the [Patient Safety Authority website](#).

For more information about Patient Safety Awareness Week, please visit the National [Patient Safety Foundation website](#).

Health Care Personnel Safety Module Data Reminder

Facilities participating in the CMS inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program must report health care personnel (HCP) influenza vaccination summary data in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for HCP who physically work in the health care facility for one day or more from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015.

Although CMS will only require participation from hospitals that receive IPPS payments, the Pennsylvania Department of Health is again requesting this information from all hospitals required to report under Act 52. Rates from each institution will be displayed publicly in the Department’s Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Annual Report. Facilities that elect not to submit their data will be noted in the HAI Annual Report.

Facilities can enter their summary vaccination counts into NHSN at any time. The numbers can be amended if new employees are hired or the vaccination status of an employee changes. This data should be entered prior to May 15, 2015.

Medicare Beneficiary Number Clarification

The Medicare beneficiary number (MBN) must be entered in NHSN for all CMS events even if Medicare is not the primary payor.

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NHSN Information

NHSN Communications

The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) recently released NHSN Version 8.3. There have been changes impacting certain NHSN components. Facilities are responsible for reviewing all communications from NHSN. Please be sure to review the recent communication sent from NHSN. Links to NHSN email updates and newsletters are provided below.

[NHSN Email Updates](#)

[NHSN Newsletters](#)

If your facility does not receive these communications, please contact nhsn@cdc.gov.

Multiple Changes in NHSN beginning January 2015

A number of revisions and enhancements in NHSN were implemented January 2015. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided several [training videos](#) that offer an overview of the changes in each chapter. Links to chapters of the NHSN manual are listed below for your convenience.

Chapter 2: [Identifying Healthcare-associated Infections \(HAI\) for NHSN Surveillance](#)

Chapter 4: [Bloodstream Infection Event \(central line-associated bloodstream infection and non-central line-associated bloodstream infection\)](#)

Chapter 6: [Pneumonia \(Ventilator-associated \[VAP\] and non-ventilator-associated Pneumonia \[PNEU\]\) Event](#)

Chapter 7: [Urinary Tract Infection \(catheter-associated urinary tract infection \[CAUTI\] and non-catheter-associated urinary tract infection \[UTI\]\) and other urinary system infection \[USI\] events](#)

Chapter 9: [Surgical Site Infection Event \(SSI\)](#)

Chapter 10: [Ventilator-Associated Event \(VAE\)](#)

Chapter 12: [Multidrug-Resistant Organism & Clostridium difficile Infection \(MDRO/CDI\) Module](#)

Chapter 17: [CDC/NHSN Surveillance Definitions for Specific Types of Infections](#)

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NHSN Information

MDRO Monthly Reporting Plan Tip

Beginning January 2015, acute care hospitals performing facility-wide inpatient (FacWideIN) LabID surveillance are also required to perform surveillance in each emergency department (ED) and 24-hour observation location for the same organism and LabID event. This requires hospitals to map each ED and observation unit in their facility to the corresponding CDC location description.

Please note that the observation unit must only be mapped if the hospital has a designated unit for observation. If there is not a designated observation unit, the patient should continue to be included in surveillance in the unit in which they reside.

An issue was identified when some hospitals tried to add the FacWideIN and ED to the monthly reporting plan (MRP) by copying the plan from the previous month. If a facility copies the FacWideIN location from the December 2014 MRP, the facility will receive an error message stating the ED is already a part of the MRP. This error message may be avoided by not copying the MRP from the previous month for the MDRO module. Instead, a row should be added to the MRP and FacWideIN selected as the location. Select MRSA blood stream only or *C. difficile* all specimens; the system will auto-populate the ED.

VAE, VAP and PNEU Information

Guidance regarding the updated protocol and reporting of ventilator-associated events (VAE), ventilator-associated pneumonias, and pneumonia in NHSN is provided below.

- ◆ The VAE algorithm is in Chapter 10. Hospitals follow this algorithm for ventilated adult patients. If the event does not meet the criteria in Chapter 10, the event is not reported.
- ◆ Chapter 6 VAP addresses ventilated pediatric events. This is followed for pediatric patients. If the event does not meet the criteria in Chapter 6, the event is not reported.
- ◆ Chapter 6 PNEU definitions are followed for patients (both adult [off plan] and pediatric [in plan]) that are **not** vented.

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NHSN 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.

Facility Administrator Changes

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. It is important that the NHSN facility administrator reassigns this role to another NHSN user when his or her job tasks at the facility change or if he/she will be leaving the facility. If this does not occur, a letter must be sent to NHSN with all pertinent information, including the hospital NHSN number, the name of the person who is requesting access as the facility administrator, and the email and telephone number of the new facility administrator. This letter must be on facility letterhead and signed by a C-level executive. This letter must be faxed or mailed to the following address:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Healthcare Safety Network
MS-A24 1600 Clifton Rd
Atlanta, GA 30333
Fax: 404-929-0131

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

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Resources and Information

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[®]) 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](#)

JCAHO Infection Prevention and HAI Portal

On January 13, 2015, the [Joint Commission announced](#) a new portal that merged two online infection prevention resources into one expanded tool. The [Infection Prevention and HAI Portal](#) provides information on various topics on patient safety and infection control.

Websites

www.health.pa.gov

www.oneandonlycampaign.org

www.patientsafetyauthority.org

www.phc4.org

www.apic.org

www.shea-online.org