

## Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter September 2015

### Department of Health Updates

#### Influenza 2015-16 Season

The Pennsylvania Department of Health monitors influenza activity throughout the year but ramps up surveillance activities in the fall and winter. The official influenza surveillance season starts with the 40th week of the year (typically around the beginning of October) and ends on the 20th week of the following year (in May).

Information about the 2014/2015 influenza season is available on the [department's web-site](#). The 2015/16 surveillance season will begin shortly. The Department of Health will be posting flu updates on the [department website](#).

#### CDC MMWR

The [CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#), published August 7, 2015, lists the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for the 2015-16 influenza season. The update includes information about the influenza vaccine products expected to be available, antigen composition of the seasonal influenza vaccines, an updated algorithm for determining the appropriate number of doses for children aged 6 months through 8 years, and recommendations for the use of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) and inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) for the 2015-16 season.

#### Department of Health Social Media

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is now on social media. These sites will be used to provide healthy living information, news stories, emergency preparedness tips, upcoming events and clinics, videos, and photos distributed by the department.

[Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) on Facebook  
[@PAHealthDept](#) on Twitter

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**Department of Health Updates**

**PA-PSRS HAI Reporting Reminders**

The final nursing home healthcare-associated infection (HAI) reporting requirements published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin provide that HAIs must be reported to the department and the Patient Safety Authority (PSA) “within 24 hours of their confirmation” (surveillance completed and HAI confirmed according to the criteria by a staff member responsible for infection control). “If confirmation of an HAI occurs over a weekend or recognized holiday, reports must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the next workday.”

Pursuant to Section 405(a) of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act, 40 P.S. § 1303.405(a), the occurrence of a health care-associated infection (HAI) in a long-term care nursing facility (nursing home) is deemed a serious event as defined in section 302 of the MCARE Act, 40 P.S. § 1303.302. Chapter 3 of the MCARE Act, 40 P.S. §§ 1303.301-1303.415, contains various provisions relating to serious events, many of which become applicable to nursing homes by virtue of the MCARE Act’s deeming of an HAI as a serious event. Particularly important are the requirements in Section 308(b) of the MCARE Act, 40 P.S. § 1303.308(b), for providing written notification to a patient or available family member or designee of the occurrence of a serious event, in this case an HAI.

An HAI entered into the PA-PSRS system is considered a serious event, and the resident/family member/responsible party must receive written notification within seven days of confirmation of the HAI.

HAI surveillance and confirmation must be an ongoing, daily process, and not one simply performed on a pre-determined selected day of the week.

Surveillance can include but is not limited to: chart review, review of laboratory, microbiology and diagnostic test results, review of daily report, review of antibiotic orders, review of residents who are on transmission-based precautions (contact, droplet, airborne). Per Act 52 of 2007, all infections which meet criteria (Nursing Home User’s Guide-April 2014) must be entered into the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS).

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#### PA-PSRS HAI Reporting Reminders (continued)

A **healthcare-associated infection (HAI)** is a localized or systemic condition that was not present or incubating upon admission to a facility.

- All signs and symptoms of an infection must be acute, new, or rapidly worsening.
- Non-infectious causes should always be considered/ruled out before defining an infection.

**Confirmation** of an infection occurs when:

- Surveillance is completed and a healthcare-associated infection (HAI) is confirmed according to the PA-PSRS standardized criteria (Chapter 4); and
- The resident symptoms meet the PSRS criteria.

**Events present on admission (POA)**

- Signs or symptoms of infection are identified within first two calendar days of admission or readmission to facility (day of admission=day one OR day after admission=day two).
- Signs or symptoms must be documented in the medical record on those dates in order for event to be POA.
- Events identified as POA are not reported to the PA-PSRS.

The **PA-PSRS Nursing Home Reporting Manual** is accessible by:

- Logging in to the PA-PSRS website @ [www.papsrs.state.pa.us](http://www.papsrs.state.pa.us)
- Selecting the “Resources” tab
- Selecting “Nursing Home User’s Manual” (April 2014)

#### Patient Safety Reporting System (PSRS) Help Desk

The PA-PSRS Help Desk continues to be available for any clinical questions related to patient/infection reports, infection criteria, or the PA-PSRS system.

The PSRS Help Desk may be accessed by telephone at 866-316-1070  
or by email at [support\\_papsrs@pa.gov](mailto:support_papsrs@pa.gov).