



Technical Advisory: HAI-2015-003

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Department of Health guidance regarding the National Safety Healthcare Network (NHSN) new clostridium difficile infection (CDI) criteria in Chapter 17.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the NHSN surveillance definitions and criteria for reporting in January 2015. A new definition for CDI reporting was added.

Infections that meet CDI criteria must continue to be reported to NHSN per the CDC surveillance definitions and as per the requirements outlined in Act 52 of 2007 Chapter 4 §1303.404(b). Written notification, per Act 13 of 2002, Section 308(b) must also be provided for these serious events. CDI infections should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if it is a continuation or a recurrence of the same infection or if it is a new infection. If the infection is a continuation or a recurrence of the same episode, a second written notification does not need to be provided.

If patient presented to the facility with diarrhea, but facility did not obtain stool specimen until day 3 or after, this infection based on these positive test results must be reported to NHSN per CDC definitions. An internal review of the hospital's policy may be necessary to address this issue.

Reporting instructions¹:

- Report the CDI and the GE or GIT if additional enteric organisms are identified and criteria are met for GE or GIT.
- Report each new GI-CDI according to the Repeat Infection Timeframe (RIT) rule for HAIs (see NHSN HAI definitions in Chapter 2 for further details and guidance). CDI laboratory-identified event (LabID Event) categorizations (e.g. recurrent CDI assay, incident CDI assay, healthcare facility-onset, community-onset, community-onset healthcare facility-associated) do not apply to HAIs; including *C. difficile* associated gastrointestinal infections (GI-CDI).

¹NHSN January 2015 (modified April 2015), Chapter 17, page 15.

Additional guidance:

- A hospital should examine the facility policy if it is standard practice to test patients in the absence of symptoms as this may result in a second infection to be reported to NHSN.
- If patient has multiple infections during same hospital stay, one written notification (serious event letter) is sufficient.
- If a patient has two different types of infections at the same time, two separate letters are not required; however, the expectation is that two different conversations have occurred to address each infection.

Questions regarding this advisory may be directed to the Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Section, Telephone (717) 425-5422.