

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter June 2014

Department of Health (Department) Updates

Nursing Home Infection Reporting in PA-PSRS Update

The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority recently implemented system enhancements to the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS) for nursing home infection reporting. Nursing homes were expected to begin utilizing the updated definitions for mandatory infection reporting on April 1, 2014, as originally specified in the final notice of the Pennsylvania Bulletin on Oct. 5, 2013. A more detailed description of the timeline and updated infection reporting criteria for Pennsylvania nursing homes is outlined below for your reference.

- The Patient Safety Authority published a notice in the May 18, 2013, Pennsylvania Bulletin “Change of Reporting Criteria for Nursing Homes under the Healthcare-Associated Infection and Prevention Control Act.” This notice described proposed changes to the surveillance criteria currently used to define reportable infections and invited public comment.
- In compliance with the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error statute, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (Authority) have collected healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) reported from Pennsylvania long-term care (LTC) facilities through the PA-PSRS using nationally recognized standards. This has allowed the Authority, the Department, and reporting facilities to identify infections that affect resident safety and design solutions to improve safety.
- Recent revisions to the standardized infection surveillance definitions for LTC facilities (i.e., McGeer Criteria), the release of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) LTC infection reporting modules and the release of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services LTC Action Plan have prompted the Authority and the Department to reevaluate the PA-PSRS HAI reporting criteria. In consultation with the CDC, the Department, the Authority’s LTC HAI Advisory Panel, and after public comment, the Authority enhanced PA-PSRS to incorporate the current McGeer criteria along with other nationally recognized surveillance criteria.
- On Oct. 5, 2013, a Pennsylvania Bulletin titled “[Reporting Requirements for Nursing Homes under Chapter 4 of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error \(MCARE\) Act](#)” was published. The Pa. Bulletin outlines the updated reporting requirements to the Patient Safety Authority (Authority) and the Department of Health (Department) under section 405(b)(3) of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act (MCARE Act) [40 P. S. §1303.405(b)(3)].

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Department Updates (continued)

PSRS Versus NHSN Reminder

Although the long-term care reporting module in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) was made available in the fall of 2012, Pennsylvania nursing homes should continue to report infections that meet the updated criteria published in the [Pennsylvania Bulletin on Oct. 5, 2013](#) as well as monthly summary data into PA-PSRS. There are no plans to switch from PA-PSRS reporting to NHSN reporting for nursing homes. This may be re-evaluated in the future should CMS require nursing homes to report into NHSN as part of the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) payment.

Act 52 of 2007 and PSRS Reporting

The requirements in Act 52 of 2007 include reporting of infections/events as defined in Chapter 4 of the PA-PSRS training manual dated April 1, 2014. This includes reporting utilization/summary data on a monthly basis in addition to reporting infections/events that meet the updated criteria. Utilization/summary data includes patient days, urinary catheter days and, beginning April 1, 2014, central line days.

Nursing home facilities can have multiple users and should have at least two individuals with active access to PA-PSRS. There are three roles that users can have within the PA-PSRS. These include the Facility Systems Manager (FSM), the PA-PSRS user and the PA-PSRS read only user. Please note that the FSM is the only person who can make certain changes within the PA-PSRS system such as adding users and editing care areas. It is important that there is always an active FSM and that users are added and deleted as needed.

Having more than one user with access to PA-PSRS will ensure continuous reporting as required by Act 52 of 2007 when staffing changes occur in nursing homes.

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Resources & Information

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.

**Patient Safety Reporting System (PSRS)
Help Desk Contact Information**

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.

Websites

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