

Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Newsletter

Department of Health (Department) Information

Infection Control Plans

Act 52 of 2007 requires all hospitals, nursing homes and ambulatory surgical centers to develop and implement infection control plans that contain specific elements and submit them to the Department of Health (Department) for review. The Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention (HAIP) Section reviewed these infection control plans to ensure the necessary elements were included. Previous guidance issued by the Department stated that any updates or revisions to the infection control plan also had to be submitted to the Department for review. This guidance has changed.

A healthcare facility no longer needs to submit any updates or revisions to their infection control plan to HAIP. However, if the facility requests that HAIP review the infection control plan and/or any updates to ensure all eight components (identified in Act 52 of 2007) are present, we will provide this assistance as part of our advisory role.

Newly licensed Pennsylvania hospitals, nursing homes and ambulatory surgical centers will still be required to send (through the postal service or email) one copy of their infection control plan to the Department of Health, HAIP for the initial review.

Any questions regarding the infection control plans may be directed to Michelle Matz at mimat@pa.gov.

Patient Safety Authority Advisories

Reminder: Chapter 4 of The Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act, 40 P.S. § 1303.403(a)(8) – Infection Control Plan states that a health-care facility shall have “a procedure for distribution of advisories issued under section 405(b)(4) so as to ensure easy access in each health care facility for all administrative staff, medical personnel and health care workers.”

The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (PSA) as per section 405(b)(4) issues advisories to health care facilities. Advisories can be accessed through the link below or by visiting the PSA’s website (www.patientsafetyauthority.org).

[Patient Safety Advisories](#)

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Department Information continued...

TIPS for Infection Control / Multidisciplinary Committees

- Allow time for members to prepare by sending an agenda in advance of the meeting.
- Have a sign in sheet to reflect (and track) member participation.
- Involve members by creating opportunities for them.
- Recognize each individual for their membership and effort.
- Engage in regular communication.
- Be enthusiastic! Your attitude can be infectious.



Topics to help facilitate discussions:

- Is there communication with other committees on infection control and prevention related issues?
- Should we participate in pilot programs or prevention collaborative opportunities?
- Is there communication regarding policy updates and revisions as needed?
- Is there discussion of patient education and /or family education?
- Is antimicrobial usage monitored?
- Is compliance with the infection control plan monitored?
- Are HAI serious events discussed?
- Are infection related issues addressed?

Recent State and Certification letters from CMS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released two memos regarding the safe repackaging of medication from single dose or single use vials and use of insulin pens meant to be used by a single patient only.

[12-35 Safe Use of Single Dose/Single Use Medications to Prevent HAIs](#)

[12-30 Use of Insulin Pens in Health Care Facilities](#)

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Resources & Information

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.

Nursing Home Reporting in PSRS

The long term care reporting module in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is scheduled to be available for use this fall. This does not mean that anything will change for nursing home reporting in Pennsylvania facilities. As of now, there are no plans to change from PSRS reporting to NHSN reporting (for nursing homes) when the module becomes available this fall. However, this is something that will need to be considered **if** CMS requires nursing homes to report into NHSN as part of the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) payment in the future.



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