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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention
Hospital Edition Newsletter
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Department of Health (Department) Updates

Nursing Home Infection Reporting

The long term care reporting module in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is available for use. 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). 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.

Wound Classification

The assignment of the wound classification in NHSN should be based on what occurs in the operating room. The surgical class should be assigned by the surgical team at the time of surgery. Assignment of surgical wound class should not be set at one class by the type of surgery; it is an indicator of potential risk for infection that is assigned on a case-by-case basis.

PAOTH Reminder

PAOTH is a procedure code that was created to use when the ICD-9 code of the procedure related to a surgical site infection (SSI) event is not included in the NHSN operative Procedure Category mapping. When the PAOTH is used for an SSI event, the ICD-9 code field is required.

Facility Change in Administration/CEO

In the event the facility's Administrator/CEO changes, please notify the Division of Acute and Ambulatory Care (DAAC) at 717-783-8980 with the updated information .

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News from the Field

WellSpan Earns Most Improved Safety Award

From WellSpan News: Walsh Integrated has named WellSpan winner of its 2012 Most Improved Safety Award. WellSpan has shown industry-leading performance in its efforts to improve patient safety and hand washing, according to Walsh Integrated, a company that provides quality control solutions to health care.

Since WellSpan implemented its hand hygiene program in February 2010, it has improved the hand washing compliance rate from 44 percent to a sustained 90 percent.

Hospital-acquired infections are a universal problem throughout health care. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 1.7 million hospital-acquired infections occur in the United States every year and contribute to 99,000 patient deaths.

Hand washing is the most effective and easiest way to prevent hospital-acquired infections.

"WellSpan staff members should feel extremely proud about our significant improvement, but even more so about our ability to sustain that improvement," said Shane Walker, director of infection control. "It demonstrates that a culture change has occurred."

Gary Merica, director of patient safety, said, "Our hand hygiene success should serve as a model of how WellSpan can affect significant change in a relatively short time. We experienced a monumental change. Our success has been simply phenomenal."

Gettysburg Hospital and York Hospital instituted technology, policies and practices to improve efforts in preventing hospital acquired infections.

"Our success was a result of getting buy-in from staff members, nurses and physicians in addition to providing timely feedback to specific groups and making changes in a non-punitive environment," said Walker.

Walker added that between 2,000 and 2,500 observations throughout both hospitals were logged each month. The consistency of observations and reporting the results helped establish the importance of hand hygiene.

Walker stressed that infection prevention is not only important to patient safety, but also patient satisfaction. "Patients must first feel safe," he said. "Hand hygiene is the first step to assuring patients' safety. They won't have a satisfying patient experience if they don't believe they're safe."

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NHSN Information

Confirmation of NHSN Events

Starting with January 2012 data, facilities must confirm months during which they did surveillance for an infection but did not identify any infections. NHSN will no longer assume that there were no infections for the month and will consider the data in such instances to be incomplete. Data from these months will no longer show up in the SIR reports. The facility should confirm that the appropriate "no events" (or "no procedures" in the case of SSI) boxes have been activated. Step by step guidance on how to report no events can be found in the Resource Library of the NHSN website in the "CMS Reporting" for CLABSI/CAUTI and SSI events.

NHSN Updates

NHSN Version 7.0 was recently released. Several usability enhancements have been made to the NHSN alerts tabs, which facilities use to report no events or procedures. Users are now able to sort and display all alerts for a given tab. Additional "Report No Events" boxes and links to create missing summary records have been added to the alerts tabs as well. Please be sure to review correspondence from NHSN regarding the release of version 7.0 and its new features.

Inpatient Versus Outpatient Procedures

While reviewing data related to the outpatient procedure question, we continue to find questionable SSIs listed as outpatient procedures. Specifically, hip replacements (HPROs), knee replacements (KPROs) and abdominal hysterectomies (HYSTs). Please carefully review the NHSN definitions and ensure the appropriate response to the outpatient procedure question is provided.

Outpatient = date of admission to the healthcare facility and the date of discharge are the same day.

Inpatient = date of admission to the healthcare facility and the date of discharge are different calendar days.

Note: The facility's billing assignment of the patient has no bearing for determining outpatient versus inpatient per the NHSN reporting guidelines.

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NHSN Information (continued)

Attention NHSN Administrators

NHSN Facility Administrators are reminded to review their list of users in NHSN to confirm that the contact information is accurate and to deactivate users who are no longer employed by the facility. If a user no longer needs access to NHSN, the user profile should be set to "inactive" to terminate access to the facility's data.

NHSN "Demo" Now Available

NHSN has announced the release of a "NHSN Demo," a publicly-available version of NHSN application for the purpose of **practice and training**. This version does not require a digital certificate to gain access. For more information about NHSN Demo, including registration, please see: http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/NHSN_Demo.html.

If you have any questions about NHSN Demo, please send an email to nhsn@cdc.gov and specify "NHSN Demo" in the subject line and/or text of your email.

Change in NHSN Facility Administrator

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 if their job tasks at the facility change or if he/she will be leaving the facility.

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