

**Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention
Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter
September 2012**

Department of Health (Department) Updates

Data Integrity and Validation (DIV) Report

The Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Section is providing a comprehensive Data Integrity and Validation report to nursing home infection prevention staff to ensure that the data documented in the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS) is complete and accurate.

The DIV report allows each facility to see and correct any problems that may exist with their data. This report should be viewed as a quality improvement tool. It is not meant to provide extra work to nursing home staff involved in healthcare-associated infection (HAI) reporting. Ideally, it will help the facility assure that the information regarding infections reported to PA-PSRS is accurate and dependable.

The Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention (HAIP) section will create and send a DIV report for the **first six months of 2012**. This report will be sent in **October 2012**. It will include both definite and possible errors, as did the previous DIV reports sent to nursing homes.

Please ensure that **all denominator data is entered for January through June 2012**. This includes catheter days and resident days for each location for each month.

We will be **sending this report via email**. Please make sure email spam filters are set to permit messages from the Department (*@pa.gov).

If the infection prevention designee information needs updated for your facility, please contact us (717-425-5422) to update this 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.

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Department of Health Updates (continued)

Pennsylvania Health Care Personnel Influenza Vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that influenza causes an average of 23,000 deaths annually.

Influenza vaccination is the single most effective way of preventing influenza infection. Even among those who are not entirely protected, the vaccine still reduces the complications of influenza. Because immunity is not guaranteed after vaccination, universal vaccination of healthcare personnel (HCP) is necessary to maximize the protective impact of this intervention.

Despite longstanding recommendations and the implementation of intensive voluntary vaccination campaigns, influenza immunization rates are still low. The average 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccination rate was 63.5 percent among HCP in the United States, far below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 90 percent. In contrast, the vaccination rate was 98.1 percent among HCP who had an employer requirement for vaccination. No other policy or campaign to promote HCP influenza vaccination has consistently achieved equivalent success.

Therefore, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in collaboration with the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition (PAIC), the Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy (CVEP) at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (PSA), is continuing to promote evidence-based universal influenza vaccination initiatives for HCP and is encouraging healthcare institutions to make vaccination a condition of employment.

There were 27 hospital-based facilities and 12 long-term care facilities who achieved a healthcare personnel vaccination rate consistent with the Healthy People 2020 goal of 90 percent or better during the 2010-2011 or 2011-2012 influenza seasons. Many of these institutions have achieved near universal vaccination rates (e.g., 99 percent) through mandatory vaccination policies. The honor roll encompasses 12 different health systems, including many that have also instituted policies for their outpatient practices. Each institution achieving a HCP vaccination rate of 90 percent or better is also presented with a certificate of excellence from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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Resources & Information

National Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections

In July 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the draft of the National Action Plan to prevent healthcare-associated infections, Roadmap to Elimination Part 6: Long-Term Care Facilities. The comment period is now closed, but the final version of the chapter is expected to be released this fall.

Priority areas addressed in the action plan include:

- Urinary tract infections, catheter associated urinary tract infections and catheter care processes;
- Clostridium difficile infections (CDI);
- Resident influenza and pneumococcal vaccination; and
- Healthcare personnel influenza vaccination

For more information, please see: the National Action Plan and Chapter 10. Long Term Care Facilities.

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

Did you know?

The Pennsylvania Department of Health offers influenza resources for healthcare providers including:

- A flu shot finder (by county or zip code)
- Flu prevention tips
- Flu (influenza) facts
- H3N2v information