



An independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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PROGRAM MEMORANDUM

To: Hospital Infection Prevention Directors, Managers, and Staff

From: Patient Safety Authority (Authority) Program Office

Date: April 5, 2013

Re: Program Memorandum No. 2013-01, Chapter 4 of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act – **Reporting Requirement Update**

Act 52 of 2007 modified the MCARE Act (the Authority's authorizing legislation) to implement a framework for healthcare-associated infection (HAI) surveillance, reporting and quality improvement. Act 52 of 2007 established the mechanism for reporting infections from hospitals as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). An announcement ([PA Bulletin](#)) of reporting requirements from the Authority and DOH instructed hospitals to create several custom fields for CDC-defined events within NHSN. These custom event (infection) forms provided additional process related information about selected HAI prevention practices.

Recently, the CDC modified NHSN's data structure, the modifications were unseen to the typical user. However the modification disordered the data being collected within the Authority custom event fields. Because of this, the Authority reevaluated the usefulness of the process related information being collected in these custom event fields.

After consultation with stakeholders, including members of the Authority's HAI Advisory Panel, Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, Pennsylvania Infection Preventionists and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the decision was made to remove the requirement of answering the custom questions within NHSN related to device-associated infections. These fields are now voluntary.

Hospitals are no longer required to answer the additional Authority custom event field process questions in NHSN.

The text of the Authority custom question fields present on the NHSN intake form has been reproduced below for reference.

The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority is an independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is the exclusive owner of the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS), which is administered under contract by ECRI Institute, a Pennsylvania-based health research organization, and its partners, HP and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP).





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CLABSI Event

- Maximal barrier
- Skin asepsis
- Line necessity

VAP Event

- HOB elevated
- Sedation interr
- Sedation contra
- Assess extubate

CAUTI Event

- Cath necessity

SSI Event

- Antibiotics rec

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