

## Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Hospital Edition Newsletter June 2013

### Department of Health (Department) Updates

#### Data Integrity and Validation (DIV) Reports

The Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention (HAIP) Section will continue to provide a comprehensive DIV report to hospital infection preventionists to ensure that the data documented in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is complete and accurate. The DIV report should be viewed and used as a quality improvement tool.

The criteria used to develop this report is periodically reviewed and updated based on the changes that occur in NHSN as well as feedback received from infection prevention staff.

#### Custom Event Fields in NHSN

As noted in the [Program Memorandum No. 2013-01, Chapter 4 of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error \(MCARE\) Act - Reporting Requirement Update](#), hospitals are no longer required to answer the additional Patient Safety Authority custom event field process questions in NHSN.

#### Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)

The CDC recently released a new [Vital Signs report](#) that shows antibiotics are being overpowered by lethal germs called carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE). These germs cause lethal infections in patients receiving inpatient medical care at such locations as hospitals, long-term acute care facilities and nursing homes.

The Department of Health is currently reviewing the best way to capture this information for future reporting purposes.

#### Surgical site infections (SSIs)

As per NHSN guidance, please keep in mind that the “old” rules and criteria should be applied for SSIs that are associated with procedures that were performed prior to Jan. 1, 2013.

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### NHSN Information

#### NHSN Newsletter

NHSN recently released the newsletter [Volume 8, Issue 1, April 2013](#). As you are aware, there have been several changes impacting NHSN reporting. Facilities are responsible for reviewing all communications from NHSN. This newsletter provides a summary of some of the changes. Please be sure to review this newsletter and materials on the NHSN website for more detail when it becomes available.

#### NHSN Manual Errata and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The April NHSN e-news provided clarification and modification to some surveillance protocols.

These changes are outlined in two documents developed by NHSN.

The first document is an errata that identifies areas of the various protocols which have been clarified or modified. It can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdf/pscmanual/errata2013.pdf>.

Please take note of two particularly important additions.

- 1) The definition for **present on admission (POA)** has been updated. Please note that this should not be applied to SSI, ventilator-associated events (VAE) or LabID events.
- 2) There are new definitions for **primary and non-primary closure of surgical incisions for SSI surveillance**. The primary closure definition must be used to identify 2013 procedures eligible for NHSN SSI surveillance.

A second document is a collection of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for CLABSI, CAUTI, SSI, VAP, MDRO/CDI and CLIP surveillance. (Please note that VAE FAQs are included within the VAE protocol.) A miscellaneous section for questions that are more general in nature and a section for questions related to mapping facility locations are also included. Each subject is accessible through tabs at the bottom of the excel document.

Please refer to this document before sending a question to the NHSN helpdesk. The FAQs may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/faqs/faq-psc.pdf>.

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**NHSN Information (continued)**

**VAE Surveillance**

Surveillance for VAE became available in NHSN on Jan. 1, 2013. To provide clarification on some commonly-asked questions, a posting is available on the VAE Web page under the FAQ section (<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/vae/index.html>), titled “March 2013 Update to VAE Frequently-Asked Questions.” NHSN continues to collaborate with the VAE Adult Surveillance Definition Working Group to address concerns identified by users and will provide additional updates and clarifications in the coming months.

**Important Reminder for NHSN Facility 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. You may view a list of users by logging into NHSN, navigating to Users > Find and clicking on the “Find” button. If a user no longer needs access to NHSN, his/her user profile should be set to “inactive” to terminate access to the facility’s data.

**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 when his/her job tasks at the facility change or if he/she will be leaving the facility. It is also recommended that facilities have two users with NHSN Facility Administrator rights.

**NHSN Contact Information**

For NHSN help, please send an email to: [nhsn@cdc.gov](mailto: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](http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn)