

**Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention
Hospital Edition Newsletter
October 2013**

Department of Health (Department) Updates

Influenza 2013-14 Season

Although influenza seasons are generally considered to start in October, sporadic reports of influenza over the summer are not uncommon. This happens because the timing and intensity of flu activity is unpredictable and can vary from one season to another.

The 2012/13 season serves as a reminder that influenza seasons can start early and cause intense illness before many people are prepared or vaccinated. Early seasons also serve as a reminder that clinicians should recommend influenza vaccination when indicated and consider influenza diagnostic testing in persons presenting with flu-like symptoms as early as October.

The 2013/14 surveillance season began Sept. 29, 2013. The Department of Health will be posting weekly flu updates on the [department website](#).

Patient Safety Checklists

A [new guide](#) from the American Hospital Association (AHA) in partnership with the Health Research and Education Trust (HRET) Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence initiative offers patient safety checklists for each of the 10 focus areas in the Partnership for Patients campaign. The checklists provide assistance and support by encouraging process improvements, increasing patient safety and promoting quality outcomes for patients.

The focus areas are: adverse drug events; catheter-associated urinary tract infections; central line-associated blood stream infections; early elective deliveries; injuries from falls and immobility; hospital-acquired pressure ulcers; preventable readmissions; surgical site infections; ventilator-associated pneumonias and ventilator-associated events; and venous thromboembolisms.

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Department and NHSN Information

Healthcare Personnel (HCP) Safety Component Change

Beginning with the 2013/2014 influenza season, acute care facilities participating in the CMS IPPS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program must report HCP influenza vaccination summary data in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for HCP who physically work in the healthcare facility for **one** day or more from Oct. 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. This is a change from the 2012/2013 influenza season, when the requirement was for 30 days or more for those working within the healthcare facility. The [HCP Influenza Vaccination Summary form](#) has been updated to reflect this change.

Although CMS will only require participation from hospitals that receive IPPS payments, **the Pennsylvania Department of Health is again requesting this information from all hospitals required to report under Act 52.** The data reported in NHSN will be used for future reports in lieu of a separate survey that was requested in the spring of 2012. Rates from each institution will be displayed publicly in the Department's Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Annual Report. Facilities that elect not to submit their data will be noted in the HAI Annual Report.

Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Training

On Aug. 20, 2013, the CDC provided a [refresher training](#) on reporting healthcare personnel influenza vaccination summary data to the NHSN for the 2013-2014 influenza season. The training along with the PowerPoint may be accessed through the above link.

Modification to Dataset Generation in NHSN Analysis

Please note that since NHSN version 7.2 was released in August 2013, the default setting for generating datasets has been changed. The default setting will include data from the three most recent calendar years, along with the current year's data.

If you would like your analysis to include all data reported by your facility, you may check the box next to "Include all data reported to NHSN for this component" on the dataset generation screen.

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Resources and Information

CDC Patient Notification Toolkit

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a [new patient notification toolkit](#) to assist health departments and healthcare facilities with notifying patients after an infection control lapse or potential disease transmission during medical care. The toolkit includes the key steps a healthcare facility or public health department should take to initiate a patient notification.

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

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