

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter October 2013

Department of Health (Department) Updates

Update to the Healthcare-Associated Infection Reporting Criteria

The Patient Safety Authority published a notice in the May 18, 2013, Pennsylvania Bulletin “Change of Reporting Criteria for Nursing Homes under the Health Care-Associated Infection and Prevention Control Act.” This notice described proposed changes to the surveillance criteria currently used to define reportable infections and invited public comment.

In compliance with the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error statute, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (Authority) have collected healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) reported from Pennsylvania long-term care (LTC) facilities through the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS) using nationally recognized standards. This has allowed the Authority, the Department, and reporting facilities to identify infections that affect resident safety and design solutions to improve safety.

Recent revisions to the standardized infection surveillance definitions for LTC facilities (i.e., McGeer Criteria), the release of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) LTC infection reporting modules, and the release of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services LTC Action Plan, have prompted the Authority and the Department to reevaluate the PA-PSRS HAI reporting criteria. In consultation with the CDC, the Department, the Authority's LTC HAI Advisory Panel, and after public comment, the Authority is enhancing PA-PSRS to incorporate the current McGeer criteria along with other nationally recognized surveillance criteria. Together, the Authority and the Department will keep LTC facilities informed of progress with adopting the new criteria. Prior to implementation of the revised criteria, the Authority will provide training and ongoing support as has been the case with past releases and modifications of PA-PSRS. LTC facilities will be notified when the training will be provided and when the revised criteria are to take effect.

For your convenience, a [pre-publication copy of the](#) Pennsylvania Bulletin final notice of the PA-PSRS LTC HAI reporting criteria (including a summary of public comments, the Authority's decision and rationale) can be found at the above link.

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter October 2013

Department of Health Updates (continued)

Antipsychotic Drug Use is Down in Nursing Homes Nationwide

In response to unnecessary antipsychotic drug use, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in 2012.

Based on new data released on Nursing Home Compare in July, CMS recently stated that nursing homes are using antipsychotics less and pursuing more patient-centered treatment for dementia and other behavioral health care. The new data shows antipsychotic drug use is down in nursing homes nationwide. <http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Press-Releases/2013-Press-Releases-Items/2013-08-27.html>

Data Integrity and Validation (DIV) Reports

As mentioned in the June 2013 Newsletter, the Patient Safety Authority and the Department of Health Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention section recently revised how nursing homes will access and view the DIV report.

The DIV report may now be accessed and viewed by signing into PA-PSRS. Then, click on the Analytical Data menu option and select Event Report Data Analysis. Select the Data Integrity Validation (DIV) report from the list of reports and click the Generate Report button. The DIV report can be viewed online or exported to Microsoft Word. Please remember to access this report to ensure the data entered for your facility is accurate and complete.

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 September 29, 2013. The Department of Health will be posting weekly flu updates on the [department website](#).

**Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention
Nursing Care Facilities Newsletter
October 2013**

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.

**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.

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