

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 90
HARRISBURG 17120

December 5, 2007

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE 717-783-1078

Dear CEO:

The Department of Health is pleased to provide this important update concerning the Commonwealth's new Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) reduction and reporting law called Act 52.

As you know, Act 52 requires hospitals to report all occurrences of HAI within 24 hours of confirmation using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). If confirmation occurs on a weekend, the HAI event must be entered in NHSN by close of business on the next business day.

NHSN groups HAI into Event Types and each Event Type has a subset of specific events. For example the Event Type Bloodstream Infection has two subtypes, laboratory confirmed bloodstream infection and clinical sepsis. There is a CDC definition for each Event Type and subtype. HAI meeting a CDC event type or subtype definition must be reported in NHSN. A list of Event Types and subtypes is included in Exhibit A. Definitions can be found at, https://sdn2.cdc.gov/nhsn/help/NHSN_PS_Help.htm, once the digital certificate for your facility has been provided by the CDC upon enrollment in NHSN.

Act 52 also requires monthly reporting of data in accordance with NHSN protocols. Currently there are protocols established for the following HAI events:

CLABSI – Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infection CAUTI – Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection VAP – Ventilator Associated Pneumonia SSI – Surgical Site Infections

Protocols require collection and monthly reporting of summary or denominator data that provides for the calculation of infection rates, another major component of Act 52. The Department, with collaboration from the Patient Safety Authority's HAI Advisory Panel and the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) has arrived at the following benchmark areas for the initial launch of Act 52:

CLABSI – housewide CAUTI – housewide

SSI – hip prosthetics, knee prosthetics, abdominal hysterectomies, and cardiovascular surgery

These areas were selected because they align with national efforts and because of either high impact or high volume. Step-by-step instructions specific to the construction of monthly reporting plans in NHSN for these benchmark areas will be provided shortly.

Please note that Dialysis Incident Event (DI) is primarily out-patient and the Medication Associated Module does not involve HAI; therefore, neither is required. The CDC does expect to launch a new module in May 2008 directed at Multi-drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO). Further directive will be issued by the Department regarding that module as we approach its launch. A chart explaining the above requirements is included in Exhibit B.

Lastly, Act 52 requires patient-specific data be reported. This will require the completion of three patient identifier fields as follows:

- Patient ID# this is the primary field and should be completed with the patient identifier most useful to the facility's infection control efforts.
- Secondary ID# this should be completed with the Patient Control Number. This is the
 patient's account billing number reported in Field 3a of the Universal Billing Form-04
 (UB-04).
- SSN facilities must include the patient's social security number.

Detailed instructions for joining the Department, PSA and HC4 groups is included along with detailed instructions for setting up the requisite view permissions to allow the groups to view facility data as required.

We trust this information addresses many of the questions you may have. Please feel free to contact Will Cramer, Section Director by phone at, (717) 787-5193, or by e-mail at, wcramer@state.pa.us, if you require more information or have additional questions.

Thank you for your dedication and support as we keep Pennsylvania at the forefront of HAI elimination.

Sincerely,

Stacy Mitchell

Stacy Mitchell

Acting Deputy Secretary for Quality Assurance

Enclosures