

Washington State, Department of Health, Healthcare Associated Infections Plan December 2009

In response to the increasing concerns about the public health impact of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has developed an Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections (HHS Action Plan). The HHS Action Plan includes recommendations for surveillance, research, communication and metrics for measuring progress towards national goals. Three overarching priorities have been identified:

- Progress towards 5-year national prevention targets (e.g., 50-70% reduction in bloodstream infections);
- Improve use and quality of the metrics and supporting systems needed to assess progress towards meeting the targets; and
- Prioritization and broad implementation of current evidence-based prevention recommendations.

In a concurrent development, the 2009 Omnibus bill requires states receiving Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant funds to certify that they will submit a plan to reduce HAIs to the Secretary of Health and Human Services not later than January 1, 2010. In order to assist states in responding within the short timeline required by that language and to facilitate coordination with national HAI prevention efforts, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has drafted a template to assist state planning efforts in the prevention of HAIs.

This template will help to ensure progress towards national prevention targets as described in the HHS Action Plan, wherein CDC is leading the implementation of recommendations on National Prevention Targets and Metrics and the implementation of priority prevention recommendations, while allowing flexibility to tailor the plan to each state's specific needs.

Initial emphasis for HAI prevention may focus on acute care, inpatient settings, yet the need for prevention activities for outpatient settings is recognized. State health departments are increasingly challenged by the needs to identify, respond to, and prevent HAI across the continuum of settings where healthcare is currently delivered. The public health model's population based perspective places health departments in a unique and important role in this area, particularly given shifts in healthcare delivery from acute care settings to ambulatory and long term care settings. In the non-hospital setting, infection control and oversight have been lacking and outbreaks –which can have a wide-ranging and substantial impact on affected communities-, are increasingly reported. At the same time, trends toward mandatory reporting of HAIs from hospitals reflect increased demand for accountability from the public.

The current template targets the following areas:

1. Develop or Enhance HAI Program Infrastructure
2. Surveillance, Detection, Reporting, and Response
3. Prevention
4. Evaluation, Oversight and Communication

Framework and Funding for Prevention of HAIs

CDC's framework for the prevention of HAIs builds on a coordinated effort of federal, state and partner organizations. The framework is based on a collaborative public health approach that includes surveillance, outbreak response, research, training and education, and systematic implementation of prevention practices. Recent legislation in support of HAI prevention provides a unique opportunity to strengthen existing and expand state capacity for prevention efforts.

Support for HAI prevention has been enhanced through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Congress allocated \$40 million through CDC to support state health department efforts to prevent HAIs by enhancing state capacity for HAI prevention, leverage CDC's National Health Care Safety Network to assess progress and support the dissemination of HHS evidence-based practices within healthcare facilities, and pursue state-based collaborative implementation strategies. In addition, the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) will support expansion of State Survey Agency inspection capability of Ambulatory Surgery Centers nationwide through \$10 million of ARRA funds. This template is intended to support the high level of reporting and accountability required of ARRA recipients.

Template for developing HAI plan

The following template provides choices for developing or enhancing state HAI prevention activities in the four areas identified above. States can choose to target different levels of HAI prevention efforts indicated by checking appropriate boxes. (Level I indicates basic elements to begin HAI prevention efforts, Level II for intermediate and Level III more mature efforts). This can serve as the state's HAI plan for submission. If your state has an existing plan, you may choose to incorporate that plan into the template below or submit the existing plan in place of the template provided.

For each section, please choose elements which best support current activities or planned activities. Current activities are those in which the state is presently engaged and includes activities that are scheduled to begin using currently available resources. Planned

activities represent future directions the state would like to move in to meet currently unmet needs, contingent on available resources and competing priorities. A section for additional activities is included to accommodate plans beyond the principal categories.

1. Develop or Enhance HAI program infrastructure

Successful HAI prevention requires close integration and collaboration with state and local infection prevention activities and systems. Consistency and compatibility of HAI data collected across facilities will allow for greater success in reaching state and national goals. Please select areas for development or enhancement of state HAI surveillance, prevention and control efforts.

Table 1: State infrastructure planning for HAI surveillance, prevention and control.

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
Level I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Establish statewide HAI prevention leadership through the formation of multidisciplinary group or state HAI advisory council	2007 first Meeting. Meets 3-4 times a year.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Collaborate with local and regional partners (e.g., state hospital associations, professional societies for infection control and healthcare epidemiology, academic organizations, laboratorians and networks of acute care hospitals and long term care facilities (LTCFs)) ii. Identify specific HAI prevention targets consistent with HHS priorities 	
			<p><i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) HAI program was established in 2007. It includes an HAI Advisory Committee. The membership includes: the state hospital association, professional societies for infection control and healthcare epidemiology, acute care hospital staff, public member, Medicare QIO, healthcare payor alliance, state survey, medical association, nursing association, and</p>	

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
			<p>others.</p> <p>Washington State collaboratives include: Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program (CUSP) established by the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) in 2009 - includes 50-60 hospitals. The Surgical Care Improvement Project established by CMS - includes all hospitals. The Surgical Care Outcome Assessment Program (SCOPE) - includes 40- 50 hospitals. Qualis Health’s (Medicare Quality Improvement Organization) MRSA initiative – includes 10 hospitals.</p>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>2. Establish an HAI surveillance prevention and control program Designate a State HAI Prevention Coordinator</p>	<p>Program established 2007</p> <p>Coordinator hired 2008.</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> i.	<p>Develop dedicated, trained HAI staff with at least one FTE (or contracted equivalent) to oversee the four major HAI activity areas (Integration, Collaboration, and Capacity Building; Reporting, Detection, Response and Surveillance; Prevention; Evaluation, Oversight and Communication)</p>	
		ii.	<p><i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) HAI program was established in 2007. HAI prevention coordinator hired in 2008. Current staff: 2.5 FTE plus 1 CSTE fellow.</p>	

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Integrate laboratory activities with HAI surveillance, prevention and control efforts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improve laboratory capacity to confirm emerging resistance in HAI pathogens and perform typing where appropriate (e.g., outbreak investigation support, HL7 messaging of laboratory results) 	When funded
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> If funded, DOH will offer testing (molecular typing) at the Washington State Public Health Laboratories for MRSA samples and other multi-drug resistant organisms.	
Level II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Improve coordination among government agencies or organizations that share responsibility for assuring or overseeing HAI surveillance, prevention and control (e.g., State Survey agencies, Communicable Disease Control, state licensing boards)	Began 2008, ongoing
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Facilitate use of standards-based formats (e.g., Clinical Document Architecture, electronic messages) by healthcare facilities for purposes of electronic reporting of HAI data. Providing technical assistance or other incentives for implementations of standards-	2012

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
			<p>based reporting can help develop capacity for HAI surveillance and other types of public health surveillance, such as for conditions deemed reportable to state and local health agencies using electronic laboratory reporting (ELR). Facilitating use of standards-based solutions for external reporting also can strengthen relationships between healthcare facilities and regional nodes of healthcare information, such as Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) and Health Information Exchanges (HIEs). These relationships, in turn, can yield broader benefits for public health by consolidating electronic reporting through regional nodes.</p>	
			<p><i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> DOH has gathered data on the Washington hospitals with electronic systems that can contribute to reporting HAI. DOH and the CDC have also begun to explore the use of HIE to assist in reporting HAI.</p>	
<p>Please also describe any additional activities, not listed above, that your state plans to undertake. Please include target dates for any new activities.</p>				

2. Surveillance, Detection, Reporting, and Response

Timely and accurate monitoring remains necessary to gauge progress towards HAI elimination. Public health surveillance has been defined as the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data essential to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice, and timely dissemination to those responsible for prevention and control.¹ Increased participation in systems such as the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) has been demonstrated to promote HAI reduction. This, combined with improvements to simplify and enhance data collection, and improve dissemination of results to healthcare providers and the public are essential steps toward increasing HAI prevention capacity.

The HHS Action Plan identifies targets and metrics for five categories of HAIs and identified Ventilator-associated Pneumonia as an HAI under development for metrics and targets (Appendix 1):

- Central Line-associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI)
- *Clostridium difficile* Infections (CDI)
- Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)
- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Infections
- Surgical Site Infections (SSI)
- Ventilator-associated Pneumonia (VAP)

Work is ongoing to identify optimal metrics and targets for VAP infection. However, detection and measurement with existing tools and methods can be combined with recognized prevention practices in states where an opportunity exists to pursue prevention activities on that topic.

State capacity for investigating and responding to outbreaks and emerging infections among patients and healthcare providers is central to HAI prevention. Investigation of outbreaks helps identify preventable causes of infections including issues with the improper use or handling of medical devices; contamination of medical products; and unsafe clinical practices. Please choose items to include in your plan at the planning levels desired.

¹ Thacker SB, Berkelman RL. Public health surveillance in the United States. *Epidemiol Rev* 1988;10:164-90.

Table 2: State planning for surveillance, detection, reporting, and response for HAIs

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
Level I	☒	☐	1. Improve HAI outbreak detection and investigation i. Work with partners including CSTE, CDC, state legislatures, and providers across the healthcare continuum to improve outbreak reporting to state health departments	2008-2012
	☒	☐	ii. Establish protocols and provide training for health department staff to investigate outbreaks, clusters or unusual cases of HAIs.	
	☒	☐	iii. Develop mechanisms to protect facility/provider/patient identity when investigating incidents and potential outbreaks during the initial evaluation phase where possible to promote reporting of outbreaks	
	☐	☒	iv. Improve overall use of surveillance data to identify and prevent HAI outbreaks or transmission in HC settings (e.g., hepatitis B, hepatitis C, multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO), and other reportable HAIs)	
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> Washington state hospitals began reporting HAI to the National Healthcare Safety Network in 2008. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Line-associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI) - 2008 • Ventilator-associated Pneumonia (VAP) – 2009 	

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical Site Infections (SSI) - 2010 <p>HAI Program has offered to provide courses on infection control practice for surveyors in the licensing and inspection program, assistance to local health jurisdictions in field investigation of hospital outbreaks, and is providing formal training to a CSTE Fellow new in the department.</p>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2.	Enhance laboratory capacity for state and local detection and response to new and emerging HAI issues.	When funded
			<p><i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i></p> <p>If funded, DOH has a plan for the Washington State Public Health Laboratories to test MRSA samples and other multi-drug resistant organisms. Molecular typing of MRSA would allow hospital infection control professionals to determine the origin and transmission of infections.</p>	
Level II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3. Improve communication of HAI outbreaks and infection control breaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop standard reporting criteria including, number, size and type of HAI outbreak for health departments and CDC ii. Establish mechanisms or protocols for exchanging information about outbreaks or breaches among state and local governmental partners (e.g., State Survey agencies, Communicable Disease Control, 	2009-11

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
			state licensing boards)	
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> DOH's State Communicable Disease Epidemiologist provides leadership and communication with state and local government partners.	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Identify at least 2 priority prevention targets for surveillance in support of the HHS HAI Action Plan Central Line-associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI) <i>Clostridium difficile</i> Infections (CDI) Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA) Infections Surgical Site Infections (SSI) Ventilator-associated Pneumonia (VAP)	CLABSI – 2008 VAP – 2009 SSI - 2010
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ii. iii. <input type="checkbox"/> iv. <input type="checkbox"/> v. vi.	5. Adopt national standards for data and technology to track HAIs (e.g., NHSN). i. Develop metrics to measure progress towards national goals (align with targeted state goals). (See Appendix 1). ii. Establish baseline measurements for prevention targets	Began 2008, ongoing
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Develop state surveillance training competencies Conduct local training for appropriate use of surveillance systems (e.g., NHSN) including facility and group enrollment, data collection, management, and analysis	Began 2008, ongoing
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	
		i.		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Develop tailored reports of data analyses for state or region prepared by state personnel	2008-09
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> DOH has created a web site that reports data analyses for Washington state. It allows the public to compare hospital infection rates.	
Level III	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 8. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Validate data entered into HAI surveillance (e.g., through healthcare records review, parallel database comparison) to measure accuracy and reliability of HAI data collection Develop a validation plan Pilot test validation methods in a sample of healthcare facilities iii. Modify validation plan and methods in accordance with findings from pilot	2009-10

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	project Implement validation plan and methods in all healthcare facilities participating in HAI surveillance Analyze and report validation findings Use validation findings to provide operational guidance for healthcare facilities that targets any data shortcomings detected	
	iv.		<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	v. vi. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9. Develop preparedness plans for improved response to HAI i. Define processes and tiered response criteria to handle increased reports of serious infection control breaches (e.g., syringe reuse), suspect cases/clusters, and outbreaks	2010
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10. Collaborate with professional licensing organizations to identify and investigate complaints related to provider infection control practice in non-hospital settings, and to set standards for continuing education and training	2012

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>11. Adopt integration and interoperability standards for HAI information systems and data sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improve overall use of surveillance data to identify and prevent HAI outbreaks or transmission in HC settings (e.g., hepatitis B, hepatitis C, multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO), and other reportable HAIs) across the spectrum of inpatient and outpatient healthcare settings ii. Promote definitional alignment and data element standardization needed to link HAI data across the nation. 	
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>12. Enhance electronic reporting and information technology for healthcare facilities to reduce reporting burden and increase timeliness, efficiency, comprehensiveness, and reliability of the data</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report HAI data to the public</p>	2009
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
			DOH has created a web site that reports data for the state. It allows the public to compare hospital infection rates.	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Make available risk-adjusted HAI data that enables state agencies to make comparisons between hospitals.	2009
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> We will make data available to state agencies and the public that is risk stratified.	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14. Enhance surveillance and detection of HAIs in nonhospital settings	2012
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	
Please also describe any additional activities, not listed above, that your state plans to undertake. Please include target dates for any new activities.				

3. Prevention

State implementation of HHS Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recommendations is a critical step towards the elimination of HAIs. CDC with HICPAC has developed evidence-based HAI prevention guidelines cited in the HHS Action Plan for implementation. These guidelines are translated into practice and implemented by multiple groups in hospital settings for the prevention of HAIs. CDC guidelines have also served as the basis the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Surgical Care Improvement Project. These evidence-based recommendations have also been incorporated into Joint Commission standards for accreditation of U.S. hospitals and have been endorsed by the National Quality Forum. Please select areas for development or enhancement of state HAI prevention efforts.

Table 3: State planning for HAI prevention activities

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
Level I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Implement HICPAC recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop strategies for implementation of HICPAC recommendations for at least 2 prevention targets specified by the state multidisciplinary group. 	2008
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> DOH reviewed the HICPAC recommendations for mandatory public reporting, along with those from other organizations, with our advisory committee. Our state has initiatives consistent with HICPAC recommendations, as described in sections above, regarding prevention of CLABSI, MRSA & MDRO, and SSI	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Establish prevention working group under the state HAI advisory council to coordinate state HAI collaboratives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemble expertise to consult, advise, and coach inpatient healthcare facilities involved in HAI prevention collaboratives 	

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
			<p><i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> HAI Program advisory committee members, the Washington State Hospital Association and Qualis (Medicare QIO) have led hospitals and other healthcare organizations in several prevention collaboratives. Information about those working groups and their projects is shared at our quarterly advisory committee meetings. They have suitable expertise drawn from regional and national sources. We continue to explore how lessons learned within those prevention collaborative projects can be spread to providers outside the collaboratives.</p>	2008 and ongoing
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3. Establish HAI collaboratives with at least 10 hospitals (i.e. this may require a multi-state or regional collaborative in low population density regions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify staff trained in project coordination, infection control, and collaborative coordination ii. Develop a communication strategy to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and sharing of best practices iii. Establish and adhere to feedback of a clear and standardized outcome data to track progress 	2008 and ongoing
			<p><i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> The Washington State Hospital Association and its “Safe Tables” program (which permits peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experiences in a protected setting).</p>	

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Develop state HAI prevention training competencies Consider establishing requirements for education and training of healthcare professionals in HAI prevention (e.g., certification requirements, public education campaigns and targeted provider education) or work with healthcare partners to establish best practices for training and certification	2012
	i.		<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	
Level II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Implement strategies for compliance to promote adherence to HICPAC recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider developing statutory or regulatory standards for healthcare infection control and prevention or work with healthcare partners to establish best practices to ensure adherence ii. Coordinate/liaise with regulation and oversight activities such as inpatient or outpatient facility licensing/accrediting bodies and professional licensing organizations to prevent HAIs iii. Improve regulatory oversight of hospitals, enhancing surveyor training and tools, and adding sources and uses of infection control data iv. Consider expanding regulation and oversight activities to currently unregulated settings 	2008-09

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
			where healthcare is delivered or work with healthcare partners to establish best practices to ensure adherence	
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> DOH's hospital rules (administrative code) were updated by our licensing (survey) program in 2008 and aligned with the latest published guidelines from APIC, SHEA and HICPAC. 2009 state legislation added more standards regarding infection control.	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Enhance prevention infrastructure by increasing joint collaboratives with at least 20 hospitals (i.e. this may require a multi-state or regional collaborative in low population density regions)	
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> The Washington State Hospital Association and its "Safe Tables" program (which permits peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experiences in a protected setting). Over 20 hospitals are participating in the AHRQ supported Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program (CUSP).	2008 and ongoing
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Establish collaborative to prevent HAIs in nonhospital settings (e.g., long term care, dialysis)	2009-12
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> Washington State's CMS Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), Qualis, has a collaborative underway in long term care.	

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
<p>Please also describe any additional activities, not listed above, that your state plans to undertake. Please include target dates for any new activities.</p>				

4. Evaluation and Communications

Program evaluation is an essential organizational practice in public health. Continuous evaluation and communication of practice findings integrates science as a basis for decision-making and action for the prevention of HAIs. Evaluation and communication allows for learning and ongoing improvement to occur. Routine, practical evaluations can inform strategies for the prevention and control of HAIs. Please select areas for development or enhancement of state HAI prevention efforts.

Table 4: State HAI communication and evaluation planning

Planning Level	Check Items Underway	Check Items Planned	Items Planned for Implementation (or currently underway)	Target Dates for Implementation
Level I	☒	☐	1. Conduct needs assessment and/or evaluation of the state HAI program to learn how to increase impact	
	☒	☐	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establish evaluation activity to measure progress towards targets and ii. Establish systems for refining approaches based on data gathered 	
			<p><i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> DOH initiated contact with hospitals in 2007; began data collection in 2008; and regularly communicate with individual facilities, APIC chapters, and a range of organizations. In response, we established help for hospitals having technical issues with the CDC’s secure portal. Our HAI program includes a large education and consultation component for hospitals having technical issues with NHSN protocols, and communicates with individual hospitals whenever our data analysis reveals anomalies. We assess program progress, and offer quarterly opportunities for our advisory committee to comment on how our state HAI Program is doing at meeting needs.</p>	2007 and ongoing

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Develop and implement a communication plan about the state's HAI program and progress to meet public and private stakeholders needs Disseminate state priorities for HAI prevention to healthcare organizations, professional provider organizations, governmental agencies, non-profit public health organizations, and the public	2009-10
	i.		<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> The DOH HAI Program has made presentations at regional APIC chapter meetings, universities, and has submitted papers to regional, national and international conferences. We are also regular participants in conference calls hosted by NHSN for state program coordinators and CSTE for state health department HAI programs. We are implementing a communication plan for public notification.	2008-10
Level II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Provide consumers access to useful healthcare quality measures	2009
			<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i> Washington state hospital infection rates available on DOH web site 12/09.	
Level III	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify priorities and provide input to partners to help guide patient safety initiatives and research aimed at reducing HAIs	2008 and ongoing
	4.		<i>Other activities or descriptions (not required):</i>	

		<p>The DOH HAI program identifies priorities with partners in our advisory committee to obtain input from consumers, payers, providers and regulators. We also discuss knowledge gaps and research plans in our universities council to advance evaluation research fundamental to advancing quality of care, patient safety and HAI risk reduction.</p>	
<p>Please also describe any additional activities, not listed above, that your state plans to undertake. Please include target dates for any new activities.</p>			

If you have questions or comments about this plan, please contact:

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Appendix 1.

The HHS Action plan identifies metrics and 5-year national prevention targets. These metrics and prevention targets were developed by representatives from various federal agencies, the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), professional and scientific organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders. The group of experts was charged with identifying potential targets and metrics for six categories of healthcare-associated infections:

- Central Line-associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI)
- Clostridium difficile Infections (CDI)
- Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)
- Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Infections
- Surgical Site Infections (SSI)
- Ventilator-associated Pneumonia (VAP)

Following the development of draft metrics as part of the HHS Action Plan in January 2009, HHS solicited comments from stakeholders for review.

Stakeholder feedback and revisions to the original draft Metrics

Comments on the initial draft metrics published as part of the HHS Action Plan in January 2009 were reviewed and incorporated into revised metrics. While comments ranged from high level strategic observations to technical measurement details, commenters encouraged established baselines, both at the national and local level, use of standardized definitions and methods, engagement with the National Quality Forum, raised concerns regarding the use of a national targets for payment or accreditation purposes and of the validity of proposed measures, and would like to have both a target rate and a percent reduction for all metrics. Furthermore, commenters emphasized the need for flexibility in the metrics, to accommodate advances in electronic reporting and information technology and for advances in prevention of HAIs, in particular ventilator-associated pneumonia.

To address comments received on the Action Plan Metrics and Targets, proposed metrics have been updated to include source of metric data, baselines, and which agency would coordinate the measure. To respond to the requests for percentage reduction in HAIs in addition to HAI rates, a new type of metric, the standardized infection ratio (SIR), is being proposed. Below is a detailed technical description of the SIR.

To address concerns regarding validity, HHS is providing funding, utilizing Recovery Act of 2009 funds, to CDC to support states in validating NHSN-related measures and to support reporting on HHS metrics through NHSN. Also, most of the reporting metrics outlined here have already

been endorsed by NQF and for population-based national measures on MRSA and *C. difficile*, work to develop hospital level measures will be conducted in the next year utilizing HHS support to CDC through funds available in the Recovery Act.

Finally, to address concerns regarding flexibility in accommodating new measures, reviewing progress on current measures, and incorporating new sources of measure data (e.g., electronic data, administrative data) or new measures, HHS and its constituent agencies will commit to an annual review and update of the HHS Action Plan Targets and Metrics.

Below is a table of the revised metrics described in the HHS Action plan. Please select items or add additional items for state planning efforts.

Metric Number and Label	Original HAI Elimination Metric	HAI Comparison Metric	Measurement System	National Baseline Established (State Baselines Established)	National 5-Year Prevention Target	Coordinator of Measurement System	Is the metric NQF endorsed?
1. CLABSI 1	CLABSIs per 1000 device days by ICU and other locations	CLABSI SIR	CDC NHSN Device-Associated Module	2006-2008 (proposed 2009, in consultation with states)	Reduce the CLABSI SIR by at least 50% from baseline or to zero in ICU and other locations	CDC	Yes [†]
2. CLIP 1 (formerly CLABSI 4)	Central line bundle compliance	CLIP Adherence percentage	CDC NHSN CLIP in Device-Associated Module	2009 (proposed 2009, in consultation with states)	100% adherence with central line bundle	CDC	Yes [†]
3a. C diff 1	Case rate per patient days; administrative/discharge data for ICD-9 CM coded <i>Clostridium difficile</i> Infections	Hospitalizations with <i>C. difficile</i> per 1000 patient discharges	Hospital discharge data	2008 (proposed 2008, in consultation with states)	At least 30% reduction in hospitalizations with <i>C. difficile</i> per 1000 patient discharges	AHRQ	No
3b. C diff 2 (new)		<i>C. difficile</i> SIR	CDC NHSN MDRO/CDAD Module LabID [‡]	2009-2010	Reduce the facility-wide healthcare facility-onset <i>C. difficile</i> LabID event SIR by at least 30% from baseline or to zero	CDC	No

Metric Number and Label	Original HAI Elimination Metric	HAI Comparison Metric	Measurement System	National Baseline Established (State Baselines Established)	National 5-Year Prevention Target	Coordinator of Measurement System	Is the metric NQF endorsed?
4. CAUTI 2	# of symptomatic UTI per 1,000 urinary catheter days	CAUTI SIR	CDC NHSN Device-Associated Module	2009 for ICUs and other locations 2009 for other hospital units (proposed 2009, in consultation with states)	Reduce the CAUTI SIR by at least 25% from baseline or to zero in ICU and other locations	CDC	Yes
5a. MRSA 1	Incidence rate (number per 100,000 persons) of invasive MRSA infections	MRSA Incidence rate	CDC EIP/ABCs	2007-2008 (for non-EIP states, MRSA metric to be developed in collaboration with EIP states)	At least a 50% reduction in incidence of healthcare-associated invasive MRSA infections	CDC	No
5b. MRSA 2 (new)		MRSA bacteremia SIR	CDC NHSN MDRO/CDAD Module LabID [‡]	2009-2010	Reduce the facility-wide healthcare facility-onset MRSA bacteremia LabID event SIR by at least 25% from baseline or to zero	CDC	No
6. SSI 1	Deep incision and organ space infection rates using NHSN definitions (SCIP procedures)	SSI SIR	CDC NHSN Procedure-Associated Module	2006-2008 (proposed 2009, in consultation with states)	Reduce the admission and readmission SSI [§] SIR by at least 25% from baseline or to zero	CDC	Yes [¶]
7. SCIP 1 (formerly SSI 2)	Adherence to SCIP/NQF infection process measures	SCIP Adherence percentage	CMS SCIP	To be determined by CMS	At least 95% adherence to process measures to prevent surgical site infections	CMS	Yes

* NHSN SIR metric is derived from NQF-endorsed metric data

† NHSN does not collect information on daily review of line necessity, which is part of the NQF

‡ LabID, events reported through laboratory detection methods that produce proxy measures for infection surveillance

§ Inclusion of SSI events detected on admission and readmission reduces potential bias introduced by variability in post-discharge surveillance efforts

¶ The NQF-endorsed metric includes deep wound and organ space SSIs only which are included the target.

Understanding the Relationship between HAI Rate and SIR Comparison Metrics

The Original HAI Elimination Metrics listed above are very useful for performing evaluations. Several of these metrics are based on the science employed in the NHSN. For example, metric #1 (CLABSI 1) for CLABSI events measures the number of CLABSI events per 1000 device (central line) days by ICU and other locations. While national aggregate CLABSI data are published in the annual NHSN Reports these rates must be stratified by types of locations to be risk-adjusted. This scientifically sound risk-adjustment strategy creates a practical challenge to summarizing this information nationally, regionally or even for an individual healthcare facility. For instance, when comparing CLABSI rates, there may be quite a number of different types of locations for which a CLABSI rate could be reported. Given CLABSI rates among 15 different types of locations, one may observe many different combinations of patterns of temporal changes. This raises the need for a way to combine CLABSI rate data across location types.

A standardized infection ratio (SIR) is identical in concept to a standardized mortality ratio and can be used as an indirect standardization method for summarizing HAI experience across any number of stratified groups of data. To illustrate the method for calculating an SIR and understand how it could be used as an HAI comparison metric, the following example data are displayed below:

Risk Group Stratifier	Observed CLABSI Rates			NHSN CLABSI Rates for 2008 (Standard Population)		
Location Type	#CLABSI	#Central line-days	CLABSI rate*	#CLABSI	#Central line-days	CLABSI rate*
ICU	170	100,000	1.7	1200	600,000	2.0
WARD	58	58,000	1.0	600	400,000	1.5
$\text{SIR} = \frac{\text{observed}}{\text{expected}} = \frac{170 + 58}{100000 \times \left(\frac{2}{1000}\right) + 58,000 \times \left(\frac{1.5}{1000}\right)} = \frac{228}{200 + 87} = \frac{228}{287} = 0.79$ <p style="text-align: right;">95% CI = (0.628, 0.989)</p>						

* defined as the number of CLABSIs per 1000 central line-days

In the table above, there are two strata to illustrate risk-adjustment by location type for which national data exist from NHSN. The SIR calculation is based on dividing the total number of observed CLABSI events by an “expected” number using the CLABSI rates from the standard population. This “expected” number is calculated by multiplying the national CLABSI rate from the standard population by the observed number of central line-days for each stratum which can also be understood as a prediction or projection. If the observed data represented a follow-up period such as 2009 one would state that an SIR of 0.79 implies that there was a 21% reduction in CLABSIs overall for the nation, region or facility.

The SIR concept and calculation is completely based on the underlying CLABSI rate data that exist across a potentially large group of strata. Thus, the SIR provides a single metric for performing comparisons rather than attempting to perform multiple comparisons across many strata which makes the task

cumbersome. Given the underlying CLABSI rate data, one retains the option to perform comparisons within a particular set of strata where observed rates may differ significantly from the standard populations. These types of more detailed comparisons could be very useful and necessary for identifying areas for more focused prevention efforts.

The National 5-year prevention target for metric #1 could be implemented using the concept of an SIR equal to 0.25 as the goal. That is, an SIR value based on the observed CLABSI rate data at the 5-year mark could be calculated using NHSN CLABSI rate data stratified by location type as the baseline to assess whether the 75% reduction goal was met. There are statistical methods that allow for calculation of confidence intervals, hypothesis testing and graphical presentation using this HAI summary comparison metric called the SIR.

The SIR concept and calculation can be applied equitably to other HAI metrics list above. This is especially true for HAI metrics for which national data are available and reasonably precise using a measurement system such as the NHSN. The SIR calculation methods differ in the risk group stratification only. To better understand metric #6 (SSI 1) see the following example data and SIR calculation:

Risk Group Stratifiers		Observed SSI Rates			NHSN SSI Rates for 2008 (Standard Population)		
Procedure Code	Risk Index Category	#SSI [†]	#procedures	SSI rate [*]	#SSI [†]	#procedures	SSI rate [*]
CBGB	1	315	12,600	2.5	2100	70,000	3.0
CBGB	2,3	210	7000	3.0	1000	20,000	5.0
HPRO	1	111	7400	1.5	1020	60,000	1.7
$\text{SIR} = \frac{\text{observed}}{\text{expected}} = \frac{315 + 210 + 111}{12600 \times \left(\frac{3.0}{100}\right) + 7000 \times \left(\frac{5.0}{100}\right) + 7400 \left(\frac{1.7}{100}\right)} = \frac{636}{378 + 350 + 125.8} = \frac{636}{853.8} = 0.74$ <p style="text-align: right;">95% CI = (0.649, 0.851)</p>							

[†] SSI, surgical site infection

^{*} defined as the number of deep incision or organ space SSIs per 100 procedures

This example uses SSI rate data stratified by procedure and risk index category. Nevertheless, an SIR can be calculated using the same calculation process as for CLABSI data except using different risk group stratifiers for these example data. The SIR for this set of observed data is 0.74 which indicates there's a 26% reduction in the number of SSI events based on the baseline NHSN SSI rates as representing the standard population. Once again, these data can reflect the national picture at the 5-year mark and the SIR can serve as metric that summarizes the SSI experience into a single comparison.

There are clear advantages to reporting and comparing a single number for prevention assessment. However, since the SIR calculations are based on standard HAI rates among individual risk groups there is the ability to perform more detailed comparisons within any individual risk group should the need arise. Furthermore, the process for determining the best risk-adjustment for any HAI rate data is flexible and always based on more detailed risk factor analyses that provide ample scientific rigor supporting any SIR calculations. The extent to which any HAI rate data can be risk-adjusted is obviously related to the detail and volume of data that exist in a given measurement system.

In addition to the simplicity of the SIR concept and the advantages listed above, it's important to note another benefit of using an SIR comparison metric for HAI data. If there was need at any level of aggregation (national, regional, facility-wide, etc.) to combine the SIR values across mutually-exclusive data one could do so. The below table demonstrates how the example data from the previous two metric settings could be summarized.

HAI Metric	Observed HAIs			Expected HAIs		
	#CLABSI	#SSI [†]	#Combined HAI	#CLABSI	#SSI [†]	#Combined HAI
CLABSI 1	228					
SSI 1						
Combined HAI			228 + 636 = 864			287+853.8 = 1140.8
$\text{SIR} = \frac{\text{observed}}{\text{expected}} = \frac{228 + 636}{287 + 853.8} = \frac{864}{1140.8} = 0.76$						

[†] SSI, surgical site infection

95% CI = (0.673, 0.849)