

DHQP Response and Outbreak Consultation Guidance

Consultation with CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) is available to provide assistance to health departments and healthcare facilities investigating Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) and associated risks. When requesting assistance, facilities and health departments should be aware of the following:

1. Facilities or health departments investigating possible HAIs should notify appropriate authorities and other stakeholders (e.g., when a facility contacts DHQP for consultation, we expect the applicable health department(s) also receive communication summarizing the situation).
2. Patient notification should be considered in order to ensure appropriate transparency. [CDC provides a Patient Notification Toolkit](#) to facilitate notification. Decisions regarding patient notification should consider the following:
 - Nature and circumstances of an infection control breach
 - Potential and degree of risk for pathogen transmission and possibility of associated illness
 - Input from key public health and healthcare stakeholders
 - Applicable state and Federal laws
3. In general, health departments and facilities should not provide patient identifiers.
4. As a part of the Federal government, CDC falls under the requirements of the [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\)](#) whereby the Agency can be made to release data, correspondence, and other records. Thus, while every effort is made to ensure that confidentiality is protected, it cannot be guaranteed.

