

# New Patient Safety Measures, New Surveillance Approaches

## What?

- CDC's NHSN is the nation's most widely used tracking system for healthcare-associated infections and patient safety events.
- NHSN is expanding surveillance to new healthcare-associated events, including top causes of hospital harm, starting with medication-related hypoglycemia via the NHSN Glycemic Control module.
- NHSN is adopting automated surveillance using [digital quality measures \(dQMs\)](#) for medication-related hypoglycemia and other healthcare-associated events via Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®), the Health Level Seven International (HL7®) data exchange standard.



## Why?

Hypoglycemia is one of the most common adverse drug events in U.S. hospitals and highly amenable to prevention.<sup>1</sup> Automated surveillance via the NHSN Glycemic Control module will do the following:

- Improve the quality of patient-safety data and benchmarking for your hospital
- Reduce the burden of submitting data to NHSN
- Improve the efficiency of sharing data between your hospital and public-health entities

## How?

Facilities report NHSN dQMs using [NHSNLink](#), NHSN's open-source FHIR application. NHSNLink connects securely to a healthcare facility's EHR system via the facility's FHIR application programming interfaces (APIs) to identify patients of interest. NHSNLink generates patient-level data in MeasureReport Bundles and passes the MeasureReport Bundles to NHSN for quality and analytic applications.

## When?

We anticipate that Early Adopters enrolled in the Medication Safety Component with demonstrated [FHIR readiness](#) will be eligible in 2027.

*New Patient Safety Measures, New Surveillance Approaches, continued*

## Data Security & Privacy

- NHSNLink does not require you to install an external vendor or “third-party” software.
- Because there are no installation requirements, NHSNLink architecture minimizes information-technology requirements for data exchange for facilities. NHSNLink requires only FHIR vR4.0.1 or higher and conformance to standardized value sets.
- NHSNLink (like all NHSN systems) protects data within the application by administrative, technical, and physical security controls that safeguard the confidentiality, integrity, and privacy of personal information according to industry-standard policies and federal laws. See the [NHSNLink Architecture and Information Assurance Overview](#) for more information.



## Ensure your facility is **FHIR-ready** today!

- ✓ Are your FHIR R4 APIs deployed to your Production environment?
- ✓ Have you enabled access to your FHIR R4 APIs by third-party applications for public-health and regulatory reporting?
- ✓ By 2026, will your FHIR R4 APIs conform to [US Core version 6.1.0](#) and [US QI Core version 6.0.0](#)?



**Note: Manual and Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) data transmission will not be available for reporting to the NHSN Glycemic Control module.**

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Office of Inspector General. Adverse events in hospitals: national incidence among Medicare beneficiaries. November 2010. OEI-06-09-00090. Available at: <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-09-00090.pdf>

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For more information about reporting dQMs to NHSN via FHIR, please visit the [NHSN Digital Quality Measure \(dQM\) webpage](#).