

# New Patient Safety Measures, New Data Exchange 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 data collection for patient safety and quality improvement
- Reduce the burden of submitting data to NHSN
- Enable national benchmarking of hospital-related harm events

The NHSN Glycemic Control Module will provide monthly reports of medication-related hypoglycemia metrics. Your facility can use these reports to support quality-improvement programs for glycemic control, identify problem areas, measure the progress of prevention efforts, and reduce medication-related harm events in your hospital. Soon the module will expand to inpatient hyperglycemia events.

## Who?

We anticipate that Early Adopters enrolled in the NHSN Medication Safety Component with demonstrated **FHIR readiness** will be eligible in 2027. You can enroll in the NHSN Glycemic Control Module through **SAMS**. (Long-term care facilities and outpatient dialysis facilities are not currently eligible to participate.)

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>

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



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

## 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.