

## Operational Guidance for Reporting Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Data to CDC's NHSN for the Purpose of Fulfilling CMS's Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program Requirements

Updated December 2017

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a final rule in the *Federal Register* on August 18, 2011 that includes surgical site infection (SSI) reporting via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) in the CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program requirements for 2012. More specifically, the rule announced a reporting requirement for SSI data for inpatient abdominal hysterectomy and inpatient colon procedures beginning with surgical procedures performed on January 1, 2012. This operational guidance provides additional information about reporting SSIs to NHSN as part of the Hospital IQR program. The requirements for SSI reporting to NHSN for the Hospital IQR program do not preempt or supersede state mandates for SSI reporting to NHSN (specifically, hospitals in states with a SSI reporting mandate must abide by their state's requirements, even if they are more extensive than the requirements for this CMS program).

NHSN users reporting SSI data to the system must adhere to the definitions and reporting requirements for SSIs as specified in the NHSN Patient Safety Component Protocol at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/ssi/index.html>. Beginning with procedures performed on or after October 1, 2015, procedures must be categorized using ICD-10-PCS or CPT codes. The list of ICD-10-PCS codes and CPT codes that comprise the abdominal hysterectomy (HYST) and colon surgery (COLO) operative procedure categories can be found in the "Supporting Materials" section of the NHSN SSI resource page: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/ssi/index.html>. All inpatient HYST and COLO surgical procedures that have been performed and assigned one or more of the listed ICD-10-PCS or CPT codes must be monitored for SSI and included in submitted SSI data.

Unless a hospital submits a "Hospital IQR Program Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Exception Form" (available through QualityNet) to indicate that they performed a combined total of 9 or fewer abdominal hysterectomy and colon surgeries in the calendar year prior to the reporting year, all abdominal hysterectomies and colon surgeries performed on acute care hospital inpatients at the reporting hospital must be included in the data reported to NHSN. Monthly reporting plans must be created or updated in NHSN to

include these inpatient procedures, specifically SSI surveillance for abdominal hysterectomies and colon surgeries must be in the monthly reporting plans (“in-plan”). SSI data for abdominal hysterectomies and colon surgeries should include SSI events and operative procedures regardless of whether the procedure was the primary one performed on the patient or secondary to another procedure. All data fields required for both denominator and numerator data collection must be submitted to NHSN, including the “No Procedures Performed” field for any month during which no inpatient colon or abdominal hysterectomy procedures were performed and the “Report No Events” field for any month during which inpatient colon or abdominal hysterectomy procedures were performed, but no SSI events were identified.

SSI surveillance data may be reported to NHSN in a number of ways. Numerator data for SSI events may be reported to NHSN by means of manual data entry into the NHSN web-based application or via file imports using the Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) file format (resources available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/CDA/index.html>.) Denominator data may be reported by manual data entry, CDA or by means of an ASCII comma delimited text file, the format for which is specified at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/ssi/index.html>.

CDC/NHSN requires data submission on a monthly basis and strongly encourages healthcare facilities to enter each month’s data within 30 days of the end of the month in which it is collected (for example, all March data should be entered by April 30) so it has the greatest impact on infection prevention activities. For purposes of fulfilling CMS quality measurement reporting requirements, each facility’s data must be entered into NHSN no later than 4 ½ months after the end of the reporting quarter. In other words, Q1 (January/February/March) data must be entered into NHSN by August 15, Q2 must be entered by November 15, Q3 must be entered by February 15, and Q4 must be entered by May 15 for it to be shared with CMS.

SSI data for abdominal hysterectomies and colon surgeries submitted to NHSN by hospitals that have completed their Annual Payment Update (APU) pledges will be reported by CDC to CMS for each hospital. The SSIs reported by CDC to CMS will be deep incisional primary (DIP) and organ/space infections detected during the operative hospitalization, on readmission to the hospital where the operative procedure was performed or on admission to another hospital, or through post-discharge surveillance. Only SSIs with an onset (date of event) 30-days or less following the operative procedure and SSIs identified in patients who were 18 years or older at the time of their operative procedure will be included in the data that CDC reports to CMS. CDC will

risk adjust SSI data reported to CMS, using the Complex 30-day SSI risk models described in the NHSN SIR Guide, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/ps-analysis-resources/nhsn-sir-guide.pdf>. CDC will provide hospital-specific SSI standardized infection ratios (SIRs), one for abdominal hysterectomies and one for colon surgeries, for each reporting hospital by CMS Certification Number (CCN).



## Appendix

The list of ICD-10-PCS and CPT codes that comprise the abdominal hysterectomy (HYST) and colon surgery (COLO) operative procedure categories can be found at the following link in the “Supporting Materials” section of the NHSN SSI resource page: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/ssi/index.html>.

