How to Report Zero Ventilator Associated Events for a Month

In order to fully comply with NHSN and CMS LTCHQR Program requirements, facilities that include Device-Associated Module surveillance (VAE) in their monthly reporting plan must indicate when they have zero infection events to report for each NHSN location and event in the plan for a given month. Doing this provides a “true zero” for your facility. If you do not indicate that your facility identified no VAE in a month, your data will not show up in NHSN's analysis tool, and it will not be included in data sent to CMS.

The following instructions demonstrate how to indicate that your facility identified no device-associated infections for locations in your monthly reporting plan.

Step 1: Complete monthly reporting for VAE surveillance
  • At the beginning of the month, add the locations and event types (i.e., VAE) you plan to follow for that specific month in your monthly reporting plan
  • Throughout the month, monitor your patients for VAE and report any VAEs that take place within locations specified in your monthly reporting plan

Step 2: Enter summary data
  • At the end of the month, enter a summary data record for each location specified in your monthly reporting plan
    o Click on ‘Summary Data’ on the left-hand navigation bar
    o Click on ‘Add’ from the drop down menu under ‘Summary Data’
    o Select the correct summary data type for the locations (i.e., “ICU/Other”) you’re entering denominator/summary data for and then click the ‘Continue’ button
  • From this screen, select the location for which you’re entering the denominator/summary data using the drop down menu next to ‘Location Code’
    o Make sure to enter the correct month and year using the drop down menus next to those fields
  • After selecting the location code, month, and year, certain fields will become required if you’ve added specific surveillance types to your monthly reporting plan for that location
    o Enter your data in the required fields
  • If you’ve identified and reported events for all of the locations and event types specified in your monthly reporting plan, you’re finished with your reporting for the month
    o If you did not have any events to report for one or more locations, continue to step 3: reporting no events

Step 3: Reporting no events in ICU or ward locations
  • If, at the end of the month, you have 0 events to report, you need to indicate that on the summary data record to be in full compliance with reporting requirements
For each location with 0 events for the month, check the ‘Report No Events’ box next to the event type you’re reporting

- If you reported 0 device days for a month, location, and device type the “Report No Events” box will be checked automatically.

Upon saving, you’ll see that the check boxes are replaced with an ‘X’ to indicate that no events of that event type have occurred in that location.
If there have been events already reported for the specific location, the ‘Report No Events’ box will be disabled, preventing it from being checked.

*Please note:* If you identify and enter a device-associated event for a location after you’ve already checked the ‘Report No Events’ box, the ‘Report No Events’ check will automatically be removed in the NHSN database.