



Good afternoon,

We are happy to announce that the 2016 NHSN Patient Safety Component (PSC) Manual has been posted to the NHSN website. The surveillance protocols and definitions contained within the manual should be used for surveillance and data collection beginning on January 1, 2016, but **not** before then. Until that time, continue to use the 2015 manual. The 2015 manual is still available on the NHSN website, in the navigation bar on the bottom left of the webpage found here <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/about-nhsn/index.html> . The 2015 manual will be available on the NHSN website until December 31, 2015. After that time it will be removed and only available in the Data Validation section of the website. If you are in need of a copy of the 2015 manual, please make a copy or print it before December 31, 2015.

Please note that the 2016 data collection forms for the Patient Safety Component are still awaiting Office of Management and Budget approval. We are making every effort to get approval and posting of the forms before January 1, 2016. In the event that the forms are not posted by January 1st, you may continue to use the 2015 data collection forms, but be sure to follow the 2016 NHSN PSC surveillance protocols. The Tables of Instructions for the 2016 data collection forms have been posted, and can provide guidance on collecting the data appropriately for 2016. If you have any questions related to this, please email us at NHSN@cdc.gov . We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

For your use, attached is a brief summary of substantive changes to the NHSN manual for 2016. For more details on these changes, please refer directly to the pages of the protocols highlighted in the summary document. Highlighted changes are those that are anticipated to affect how you collect or interpret infection data. Other changes such as the addition of clarifying statements or wordsmithing are not included. It is our hope that these changes, which are in direct response to NHSN user feedback will improve the data collected for evaluating infection prevention efforts. NHSN is thankful for your feedback over the year.

In the near future, NHSN will post a copy of the complete 2016 PSC Manual as a single document for ease in printing. When that is available, another blast email will be sent to all NHSN users. Until that time, you may print from the individual protocols or chapters if needed.

As always, thank you for your continued support of NHSN, and from our team to yours, Happy Holidays.

The NHSN Team