

Dear NHSN User,

This weekend NHSN version 6.5 was released. This version implemented many important enhancements, including NHSN alerts and the ability to report no events and procedures.

Please carefully review the materials on pages 2 and 3 of this document for important details regarding the changes implemented with NHSN version 6.5.

As always, you may contact us at [nhsn@cdc.gov](mailto:nhsn@cdc.gov) with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
The NHSN Team



## NHSN version 6.5: Updates in the Patient Safety Component

| Component      | Change   | Description  |
|----------------|--|--|
| Patient Safety | NHSN Alerts                                      | <p>New alerts have been created to track compliance with NHSN protocols. A tabbed alert screen will be displayed upon login to NHSN, displaying locations and procedures for which data quality issues exist.</p> <p>Detailed guidance on the new alerts functionality is being sent to all PS component users. The guide will also be available in the Resource Library section of the NHSN website (<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/library.html">http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/library.html</a>) shortly after the release.</p>  |
|                | Report No Events and Procedures                  | <p>Facilities will now be required to indicate that they have zero events or procedures to report for a month in which the event or procedure is in their reporting plan.</p> <p>For the Device-Associated, MDRO, and Vaccination Modules, boxes to indicate that a facility has no events to report are located on the relevant summary data forms.</p> <p>For the Procedure-Associated Module, boxes to indicate that a facility has no events to report or no procedures were performed for a given procedure category are located on the Missing Procedures and Missing PA Events tabs of the Alerts screen.</p> <p>More information about reporting no events or procedures is available in the detailed alerts guidance discussed above.</p> |
|                | Custom Fields Changes                            | <p>The user interface on the custom forms page (Facility → Customize Forms in the navigation bar) has been updated to make entry of custom fields more streamlined.</p> <p>More information about these changes is available in the Help section within the NHSN application.</p>  |
|                | Updated Gender Category                          | “Other” has been added to the options for Gender.  |
|                | Unlock Location for Editing in Summary Data Form | Facilities can now edit the Location field in summary data records after they click the Edit button. If updates are made to Location, facility must re-enter relevant summary data counts.   |
|                | Additional Events for PVBV Procedures            | Specific event codes DIS and SIS can now be entered for SSIs that occur following PVBV procedures to capture infections that occur at the bypass donor site.   |
|                | Off-plan Reporting for GG and HH                 | Facilities may now enter MDRO module summary data records off-plan that only include hand hygiene and gown and glove use data. Facilities may also report fewer than 30 observations off-plan.   |



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|   | Groups - Ability to Send Email to Members within NHSN          | Group users with administrative rights can now send an email to facilities that are members of the group from within NHSN. Select Group → Send Email on the navigation bar to use this feature.   |
|   | Queued Generation of Datasets                                  | <p>When a user generates new analysis datasets, the request to generate will be placed in a queue in order to more efficiently use system resources.</p> <p>Users are now able to navigate through NHSN or log off from the system completely when generating datasets. When the user returns to the dataset generation screen, the progress bar will display how far the generation process has progressed. If the generation is complete, new datasets will be available and the time generated will be displayed.</p>  |
|   | PS Analysis Updates  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Component-specific variable reference lists have been created and will be available in the Codes and Variables section of the resource library: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/library.html#cv">http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/library.html#cv</a></li> <li>• Standardized infection ratio (SIR) output options have been created for CAUTI</li> <li>• A “no events” variable has been added to relevant analysis datasets for the device-associated, MDRO, and vaccination modules to indicate when facilities have activated the Report No Events box(es)</li> <li>• The LocationType variable has been added to analysis modification screen filtering options</li> <li>• Facility-wide denominators have been added as values for the Location variable in relevant datasets for the MDRO module’s LabID event option</li> <li>• Analysis datasets for SSI SIR output options are now presented at the procedure level. Risk for each individual procedure is available when exporting the analysis dataset.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Clinical Document Architecture (CDA)</b> | Request to Facilities Not Using Vendor Systems and CDA Mailbox | <p>If your facility is utilizing the CDA import but not using a vendor system, please let NHSN know. We maintain a distribution list for CDA announcements and updates and would like to add these facilities to the list.</p> <p>Please contact the NHSN CDA mailbox at <a href="mailto:nhsncda@cdc.gov">nhsncda@cdc.gov</a> to let us know if your facility is developing its own CDA files. Additionally, we invite all facilities to use this address for all future questions or communications about NHSN’s CDA import function.</p>  |