

Subject: NHSN Updates, Including Guidance for CLABSI, CAUTI, and SSI Reporting for CMS
(Sent: January 3, 2012)

We would like to make you aware of several new NHSN documents and/or updates that have been posted to our website:

1. Three operational guidance documents for Acute Care Hospitals to report CLABSIs, CAUTIs, and SSIs to NHSN for to meet the requirements of CMS's Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program have been posted to our public website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/cms-welcome.html>, and also in the NHSN Resource Library at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/library.html#psc>. Similar guidance documents for Long Term Acute Care Hospitals and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities to report CLABSIs and/or CAUTIs are being finalized and will be posted as soon as possible.

2. Please note that two NHSN newsletters have been corrected. On page 2 of the March 2011 newsletter, the Secondary BSI Guideline was updated to reflect the guideline found on the Resource Library page of the NHSN website. Specifically wording was added to the second paragraph indicating that at least one of the organisms cultured from the non-blood site must match an organism recovered from the blood culture. The second Q & A on page 6 of the June 2011 newsletter has been corrected to recognize that abdominal hysterectomies and vaginal hysterectomies are distinguished by the route of uterine removal, not by the surgical approach, e.g., a hysterectomy through the abdomen, but with removal of the uterus through the vagina is coded as a vaginal hysterectomy (VHYS). This same method of categorization is used for hysterectomies that are laparoscopically-assisted. This change harmonizes NHSN abdominal hysterectomy (HYST) and VHYS categorization with that of medical coders. We apologize for any difficulties these errors may have caused. The corrected newsletters may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/newletters.html>.

3. If your facility currently imports (or plans to import) procedure data via a .csv file, please note that we have updated the file specifications that will be in effect with NHSN version 6.6. These specifications are available at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/ImportingProcedureData_2012.pdf and now reflect the changes as outlined in the September 2011 NHSN Newsletter (<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/Newsletters/newsletter-Sept-2011.pdf>).

Thank you,
The NHSN Team