Your facility is responsible for reporting positive blood cultures among your in-center hemodialysis outpatients. This includes positive blood cultures from specimens that were collected in any outpatient setting or on the day of or on the day after a hospital admission.

Therefore, the Dialysis Event form prompts you to answer the following question when reporting a positive blood culture:

**Q1:** Other than the dialysis clinic, where could my hemodialysis outpatient have a positive blood culture that my facility is responsible for reporting?

- Hospital (on the day of or the day following admission) or E.D. –
  - Including the emergency department (E.D.) or blood specimens collected on the day of or the day after a hospital admission
- Other location –
  - Other outpatient locations such as a physician’s office, or a nursing home

**Q2:** How can I improve my facility’s surveillance for positive blood cultures?

- Follow up on every hospitalization for every patient
  - Ask your patients if they went to the hospital since their last treatment
  - Request hospital microbiology lab results that include pathogen and susceptibility information
  - Develop communication strategies with infection preventionists and other staff at local hospitals
  - Investigate opportunities to share the electronic medical record system with local hospitals
- Collect blood samples for culture whenever a bloodstream infection is suspected and before antimicrobials are administered
- Remember, a positive blood culture should be reported regardless of whether or not a true infection is suspected or whether the infection is thought to be related to hemodialysis

**Questions about NHSN?** Email the NHSN helpdesk at nhsn@cdc.gov with “Dialysis” in the subject line and we will respond to your inquiry within 5 business days.