

When and How to Correct or Delete a Reported Dialysis Event Inside NHSN

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Learning Objectives

- **Understand how timely and accurate NHSN data impacts CMS performance. scores, reimbursement, and reporting.**
- **Understand when corrections or deletions are appropriate.**
- **Learn how to accurately correct or delete events within the NHSN application.**

Understanding NHSN and CMS ESRD Connection

- **NHSN is the CDC's data system for tracking dialysis facilities events and infections.**
- **CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services) uses your NHSN data to:**
 - Calculate your BSI score.
 - Determine your facility's ESRD QIP performance.
 - Assign payment.
 - Provide your facility's results.
- **Accurate reporting matters beyond NHSN.**
 - NHSN is not just a data entry system. The data entered directly impacts how your facility is scored and reimbursed by CMS.

CDC and CMS ESRD QIP Guidance Highlights

- Outpatient dialysis facilities are required to report data according to the NHSN Dialysis Event (DE) Protocol to ensure uniformity and accuracy across participating facilities.
- If additional data becomes available after the reporting period, users are expected to report this information retrospectively to ensure NHSN data are complete and accurate.
- The surveillance protocol is designed to collect reliable data without making the process too complicated or time consuming for dialysis staff.

How Corrections Impact CMS ESRD QIP Scoring

- **While facilities can update or correct NHSN data anytime, CDC freezes all data submitted to NHSN immediately after the submission deadline each quarter.**
 - CMS uses a specific data snapshot taken at the QIP deadline.
 - If corrections are made after the CMS QIP submission deadlines, those updates:
 - **Will not change** your BSI score that CMS will use to grade your facility.
 - **Will not change** your payout or the score given.
- **Late corrections may help improve internal quality, but will not reverse QIP penalties tied to inaccurate or incomplete data submitted before the deadline.**

Making Accurate Edits Inside NHSN

Common Reasons For Data Corrections or Deletions

- **Corrections**

- Typographical errors.
- Incorrect event dates.
- Misclassification of event types.
- Missing data.

- **Deletions**

- Duplicate entries.
- Events entered in error.

Identifying Errors in Reported Events

- **Regular internal audits:**
 - Conduct monthly or routine reviews of entered events and denominator data.
 - Look for missing or duplicated events, inconsistent dates, or incomplete fields.
- **Use NHSN built-in reports.**
- **Review the NHSN dashboard.**
- **Crosscheck with patient medical records:**
 - Patient notes.
 - Culture results.

Steps to Correct a Reported Event

- Log into NHSN via SAMS.
- Navigate to the specific event type under 'Find.'
- Search for the event using relevant criteria.
- Select the event and click edit.
- Save the corrected event.

The screenshot shows the NHSN - National Healthcare Safety Network 'Find Event' page. On the left is a navigation menu with options: NHSN Home, Alerts, Dashboard, Reporting Plan (highlighted), Patient (highlighted), Event (highlighted), Summary Data, COVID-19, Import/Export, Surveys, Analysis, Users, Facility, Group, Cheat Sheets, and Logout. The main content area is titled 'Find Event' and includes instructions: 'Enter search criteria and click Find', 'Fewer criteria will return a broader result set', and 'More criteria will return a narrower result set'. Below these are two sections: 'Event Information' and 'Patient Information'. The 'Event Information' section contains fields for Facility ID (with a dropdown arrow), Event #, Event Type (set to 'DE - Dialysis Event' with a dropdown arrow), Specific Event Type (with checkboxes for 'IV antimicrobial start', 'Positive blood culture', and 'Pus, redness, or increased swelling at vascular access site'), Location (with a dropdown arrow), and Date of Event (with date pickers for '10' and '10'). The 'Patient Information' section contains fields for Patient ID, Last Name, First Name, Social Security #, and Secondary ID. At the bottom right are three buttons: 'Find' (highlighted), 'Clear', and 'Back'.

Steps to Delete a Reported Event

- Log into NHSN via SAMS.
- Navigate to the specific event type under 'Find.'
- Search for the event using relevant criteria.
- Select the event and click 'Delete.'
- Confirm deletion when prompted.
- Deleting an event is permanent. Ensure deletion is appropriate.

Note: If you delete a record AFTER the dataset is frozen, it will remain in the frozen dataset and thereby sent to CMS.

Best practices for Data Correction and Deletion

- **Documentation**

- Use comments inside NHSN event and reporting screens.
- Keep internal records of all corrections and deletions.

- **Training**

- Ensure that all staff entering or reviewing data:
 - Understand NHSN definitions.
 - Follow event classification protocols.
 - Know how to find and fix error appropriately.

- **Communication**

- Maintain open communication with CDC Dialysis Team by submitting a ticket or e-mailing NHSN Help Desk at nhsn@cdc.gov.

Resources

- [NHSN Dialysis Event Surveillance Protocol](#)
- [NHSN and CMS End Stage Renal Dialysis Quality Incentive Program \(ESRD QIP\) Rule](#)
- [Dialysis Component Roadmap](#)
- [NHSN Reports for CMS ESRD QIP](#)
- [BSI SIR for Performance Measurement](#)
- [Introduction to NHSN DE Surveillance](#)
- [Reviewing events and running reports](#)
- [Diving Into Dialysis Data](#)
- NHSN Help Desk nhsn@cdc.gov

Thank You

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

