#### National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases



# When and How to Correct or Delete a Reported Dialys is 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 <u>after</u> 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 <u>will not reverse</u>
   <u>QIP penalties</u> 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

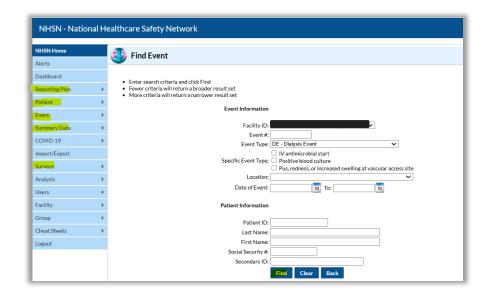
- Duplicate entries.
- Events entered in error.

## **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.



## **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 <a href="mailto:nhsn@cdc.gov">nhsn@cdc.gov</a>.

#### 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
- <u>Diving Into Dialysis Data</u>
- NHSN Help Desk <a href="mailto:nhsn@cdc.gov">nhsn@cdc.gov</a>

#### **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.

