

Acute Care Hospitals: Troubleshooting Your CLABSI and CAUTI SIRs (2015 Baseline)

January 2025

We suggest that you review the [General Tips for NHSN Analysis](#) document before reviewing this troubleshooting guide any further. This guide assumes recent dataset generation and no 'Alerts' on the home screen.

➤ **CLABSI and CAUTI SIR general information:**

- CLABSI baseline time period: 2015
- CAUTI baseline time period: 2015

➤ **Problem #2: My quarterly SIR for CMS IPPS shows fewer CLABSI (or CAUTI) events and/or fewer device days than I have entered in NHSN.**

Solution:

- Step 1: Check your monthly reporting plans for all 3 months of the quarter. Be sure that all applicable ICU and select ward locations are included in your monthly reporting plans for CLABSI (or CAUTI) surveillance.
- Step 2: Be sure that you have entered denominator data, both patient days and central line (or urinary catheter) days, for all ICU and select ward locations for all 3 months of the quarter. If no events were entered for any month, the appropriate 'No Events' box should be checked.
- Step 3: Run a line list of CLABSI (or CAUTI) events for the time period of interest. Review specific details of each event to determine possible reasons for exclusion.
 - If central line= "No" on any BSI event, the event is not considered a CLABSI and will be excluded from the SIR. BSI events that meet the mucosal barrier injury (MBI) definition will also be excluded from the CLABSI SIRs. If urinary catheter = "NEITHER" on any UTI event, the event is not considered a CAUTI and will be excluded from the SIR.
 - The CLABSI and CAUTI SIR output for CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program only includes:
 - CLABSI events from adult, pediatric, and neonatal ICUs
 - CAUTI events from adult and pediatric ICUs
 - For both CLABSI and CAUTI:
 - Medical ward, medical/surgical ward, surgical ward, pediatric medical ward, pediatric medical/surgical ward, and pediatric surgical ward

Additional Resources:

NHSN's Guide to the SIR (2015 Baseline):

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/ps-analysis-resources/nhsn-sir-guide.pdf>

NHSN Analysis Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ps-analysis-resources/index.html>

Patient Safety Analysis Quick Reference Guides:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ps-analysis-resources/reference-guides.html>

Keys to Success with the SIR:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ps-analysis-resources/keys-to-success.html>

CMS IPPS Checklist for CLABSI and CAUTI SIR:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/cms/ach-monthly-checklist-cms-igr.pdf>