

## FAQs: THE 2015 REBASELINE

This document contains frequently asked questions regarding the 2015 standardized infection ratio (SIR) baseline. CDC is updating the baseline to continue driving the progress of preventing HAIs. The current risk adjustment methods and original baselines which vary by HAI type and/or healthcare facility type, have been updated using data entered into NHSN in 2015 as the source of aggregate data. For more information about the rebaseline, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/2015rebaseline>.

### What is the 2015 rebaseline?

“Rebaseline” refers to the process of updating NHSN’s original HAI baselines to continue driving the progress of preventing HAIs. The 2015 rebaseline updates both the source of aggregate data and the risk adjustment methodology used to create the baselines. Risk adjustment refers to the processes used to account for the differences in risk that may impact the number of infections reported by a hospital, such as type of patient care location, bed size of the hospital or patient age. When the data are risk-adjusted, it makes it possible to meaningfully compare hospital performance.

Previously calculated SIRs had different baseline years for each infection type and facility type. Beginning in January 2017, HAI prevention progress will be measured against the new baselines from 2015.

The SIRs using the 2015 baseline are scheduled to be available in NHSN in December 2016. Additional information on the SIR can be found in the October 2010 NHSN newsletter and CDC’s HAI Progress Report FAQs.

- October 2010: [http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/newsletters/nhsn\\_nl\\_oct\\_2010se\\_final.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/newsletters/nhsn_nl_oct_2010se_final.pdf)
- CDC's HAI Progress Report FAQs: <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/surveillance/progress-report/faq.html>

### Why does the current risk adjustment need to be updated?

CDC is updating the baseline to continue driving the progress of preventing HAIs. The current risk adjustment methods and original baselines vary by HAI type and/or healthcare facility type. In addition, there have been numerous surveillance definition and protocol changes since the original baseline set was defined. The table below outlines the baseline time periods and methods currently used by NHSN:

HAI Type	Previous Referent Periods	Predicted HAIs
CLABSI	Jan 2006 – Dec 2008 Acute Care Hospitals Jan 2013 – Dec 2013 Long Term Acute Care Hospitals (LTACHs)	Calculated using rate data
CAUTI	Jan 2009 – Dec 2009 Acute Care Hospitals Jan 2013 – Dec 2013 LTACHs Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs)	Calculated using rate data
SSI	Jan 2006 – Dec 2008	Calculated using risk model
MRSA bacteremia	Jan 2010 – Dec 2011	Calculated using risk model
<i>C. difficile</i> infection	Jan 2010 – Dec 2011	Calculated using risk model

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### What will the 2015 rebaseline represent?

The rebaseline will represent data reported to NHSN for the calendar year 2015. As in, data reported to NHSN in 2015 will serve as the new baseline year for future SIR calculations at the local, state, and national levels.

HAI Type	Original National Baseline Data			2015 Rebaseline
	Acute Care Hospitals (ACH)	Long-term Acute Care Hospitals (LTACH)	Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRF)	
CLABSIs	2006-2008	2013	2013	2015
CAUTIs	2009	2013	2013	2015
SSIs	2006-2008	None	None	2015 (ACH only)
Hospital-onset <i>C. difficile</i>	2010-2011	None	None	2015
Hospital-onset MRSA bacteremia	2010-2011	None	None	2015
Ventilator-associated events (VAE)	New - No Previous National Baseline Data			2015
Mucosal Barrier Injury (MBI)				2015
Standardized Utilization Ratio (SUR) (all device types)				2015

### What can hospitals and other organizations expect to happen to their SIRs after the 2015 rebaseline?

The data included in the 2015 baseline will serve as a new “reference point” for comparing progress. CDC expects that hospital SIRs will increase and shift closer to 1, especially for SIRs that will be calculated for 2015.

### Where can I find more information about this subject?

Additional information can be found on CDC’s NHSN website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/2015rebaseline>. Other resources include the NHSN Newsletters.

- December 2015: [http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/newsletters/nhsn-ene-newsletter\\_dec-2015\\_final.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/newsletters/nhsn-ene-newsletter_dec-2015_final.pdf)
- March 2016: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/newsletters/nhsn-nl-march-2016.pdf>
- June 2016: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/newsletters/nhsn-nl-june-2016.pdf>

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