



Overview: Tracking Infections in Long-term Care Facilities (LTCFs)

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National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion



Target Audience

- ❑ This training is for people who want to:
 - Use NHSN to track infections and analyze infection data in one or more LTCFs
 - Support a LTCF interested in enrolling and reporting infection data into NHSN
 - Learn how using NHSN can benefit long-term care facilities (LTCFs)

Objectives

- ❑ Describe how NHSN supports infection surveillance
- ❑ Understand how LTCFs can use NHSN to analyze and report infection data
- ❑ Identify what a LTCF needs to report into NHSN

What is NHSN?



- CDC supported internet-based system designed for healthcare facility reporting of infections
- Data used by facilities for surveillance, benchmarking, and internal quality improvement
- Data used by CDC to establish national benchmarks and monitor success of efforts to prevent healthcare-associated infections (also called HAIs)

Why track infections in LTCF?

- ❑ To comply with infection surveillance regulations
- ❑ To identify the most common or most harmful infections impacting residents and staff
- ❑ To have a baseline to detect new or increasing infections (e.g., outbreaks)
- ❑ To have data to develop and evaluate infection prevention activities in the facility*

**Without data, we can't show improvement «*

How does NHSN support LTCFs?

- ❑ Provides tools and resources to assist your surveillance program
- ❑ No fees for participation or the services related to reporting
- ❑ Data are secure, confidential and immediately available for analysis and use by the facility
- ❑ Facilities can choose to share data with others
 - Between partner facilities (e.g., multi-facility or corporate system) or with other entities (e.g., public health agencies or quality improvement organizations)

How can using NHSN benefit LTCFs?

- ❑ All reporting will use the same nationally accepted infection definitions
- ❑ Allows for fair comparison of rates by facility characteristics (e.g., # of beds or services provided)
- ❑ Provides national rates for facilities to use as a benchmark for assessing their own rates and prevention efforts
- ❑ Demonstrates trends in improvements in infection prevention by LTCFs across the country

How is NHSN organized?

NHSN reporting is divided into different reporting components

- ❑ Patient Safety is used by hospitals and other acute care facilities for infection reporting
- ❑ Biovigilance is used by hospitals for reporting blood transfusion safety events
- ❑ LTCF was adapted from Patient Safety for LTCF resident infection reporting
- ❑ Healthcare Personnel Safety is used by all healthcare facilities to report healthcare staff safety events (e.g., influenza vaccination)



Which NHSN Components are available for LTCFs?

- ❑ Currently, LTCFs can enroll and report in the following:
 1. Long-term Care Facility Component
 - ❑ To track resident infections
 - ❑ To track staff adherence with hand hygiene and gown/glove use
 2. Healthcare Personnel Safety Component
 - ❑ To track staff influenza vaccination
 - ❑ For more information about Healthcare Personnel Safety: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/hps.html>

What events can you report in the LTCF Component?

Reporting is divided into different modules/events:

- ❑ Healthcare Associated Infection Module
 - ❑ Focuses on urinary tract infection reporting, both catheter and non-catheter related events
 - ❑ Could expand to include other infection events in the future
- ❑ Laboratory Identified (Lab-ID) Event Module
 - ❑ Uses positive laboratory tests and cultures to track antibiotic resistant organisms, (e.g., methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) and *C. difficile*
- ❑ Preventions Process Measures Module
 - ❑ Tracks staff adherence to hand hygiene and proper use of gowns/gloves

Are data entered into NHSN kept confidential?

- ❑ Data entered into NHSN by facilities reporting as part of state or federal regulations are shared with the agencies overseeing the reporting programs
- ❑ Data entered into NHSN by facilities reporting voluntarily are protected by a data confidentiality agreement in the Public Health Service Act
 - ❑ Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242b, 242k, and 242m(d) - Sections 304, 306 and 308(d))
 - ❑ “The **voluntarily provided** information contained in this surveillance system that would permit identification of any individual or institution is collected with a guarantee that it will be held in strict confidence, will be used only for the purposes stated, and will not be disclosed or released without the consent of the individual, or the institution

Could I share my data with someone not at my facility?

- ❑ Yes, a facility can **choose to share** their NHSN data with external partners such as their corporate leadership or quality improvement organizations
- ❑ Sharing data can be done through an optional feature called “Joining an NHSN Group”
- ❑ Facilities who join an NHSN Group, provide permission to the external group leader to see parts of their data
 - ❑ If more than one facility is part of an NHSN Group, individual facilities cannot see one another’s data

How to get started using NHSN

- ❑ Obtain support from your organization's leadership to participate in NHSN
 - Identify the "*NHSN facility administrator*" – the primary point of contact between your facility and NHSN
- ❑ Ensure computer/internet access for the NHSN facility administrator and any other users
 - Each person needs a current email address
- ❑ Review the enrollment training slides and materials on the NHSN LTCF website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/LTC/enroll.html>

Identify the “NHSN Facility administrator” ‹‹

- ❑ The “NHSN facility administrator” is the person who leads the NHSN enrollment and reporting for your facility
 - ❑ CDC uses this term to designate the person who adds users and submits/edits facility information within NHSN
- ❑ The NHSN facility administrator does NOT have to be the same person who serves as the facility administrator for your organization
 - The NHSN facility administrator should have support and authority to make decisions about NHSN use for the facility
- ❑ Consider having a second person learn about the NHSN enrollment and reporting process as a “back-up” NHSN lead for your facility

Ensure computer access

- ❑ NHSN is a web-based data reporting system
- ❑ The NHSN Facility Administrator and all users will need access to a computer with internet access to use NHSN
- ❑ All staff using NHSN will need a current email address
 - Email is the primary way CDC contacts NHSN users
 - Some individuals opt to use their personal email address to maintain a stable contact with CDC
- ❑ A facility's IT/computer support services may have to work with NHSN users to be sure the privacy and security settings on their computer and email allow for NHSN access and communication with CDC

Identify other NHSN users

- ❑ Some facilities divide the NHSN data reporting activities among multiple people to share the work
 - Anyone entering data into NHSN for a facility must be designated as a facility user by the NHSN facility administrator
- ❑ All NHSN users must receive NHSN system access by receiving a user ID and passcode from the CDC's Secure Access Management System (SAMS)
- ❑ Once a user has access to NHSN, he/she should review the training slides for reporting event data and summary data

What happens next?

- ❑ There are several steps to enrolling a facility including:
 - Agreeing to the NHSN rules of behavior
 - Registering the facility and facility contact information with NHSN
 - Obtaining SAMS/NHSN access for all users
 - Submitting facility demographic information into the “NHSN Annual Facility Survey”
 - Signing and returning the NHSN consent form to CDC
- ❑ For step-by-step instructions about getting NHSN access for users and enrolling your facility, review the NHSN LTCF Enrollment slide set:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/LTC/enroll.html>

For more information, visit the NHSN LTCF website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/LTC/>

Long-term Care Facility Component

- Training
- Protocols
- Data collection forms
- Tables of instructions for completing all forms
- Key terms

Questions or Need Help?

Contact User Support at nhsn@cdc.gov

