



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Division of Health Care Quality
99 Chauncy Street, 11th Floor, Boston, MA 02111
617-753-8000

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

JOHN W. POLANOWICZ
SECRETARY

CHERYL BARTLETT, RN
COMMISSIONER

Circular Letter: DHCQ 14-10-621

TO: Acute Care Hospital Chief Executive Officers

FROM: Deborah Allwes, BS, BSN, MPH *DEA*
Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

DATE: October 7, 2014

RE: New Requirements for Reporting Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Data Pursuant to Hospital Licensure Regulations Amendment at 105 CMR 130.1701.¹

Background

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has required acute care hospitals to report central line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) for adult, pediatric and neonatal intensive care unit patients, surgical site infections (SSI) from hip, knee, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) procedures and abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy procedures to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) since July 1, 2008. Reporting healthcare personnel influenza data to NHSN was required in 2012.

Federal HAI reporting requirements have evolved since the implementation of the MDPH reporting mandate. Beginning January 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has required hospitals participating in the Inpatient Quality Reporting Program (IQR) to report specific HAI data to NHSN in order to receive full reimbursement. The following chart describes the current CMS requirements and dates of implementation.

¹ <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/regs/105cmr130.rtf>

Table 1. CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program

HAI Event	Reporting Specifications	Reporting Start Date
Central Line-associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI)	Acute Care Hospitals: Adult, Pediatric, and Neonatal ICUs	January 2011
Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)	Acute Care Hospitals: Adult and Pediatric ICUs	January 2012
Surgical Site Infection (SSI)	Acute Care Hospitals: Inpatient Colon and Abdominal Hysterectomy Procedures	January 2012
Methicillin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA) Bacteremia LabID Event	Acute Care Hospitals: Facility Wide Inpatient	January 2013
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> Infection (CDI) LabID Event	Acute Care Hospitals: Facility Wide Inpatient	January 2013
Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination	Acute Care Hospitals	January 2013

MDPH HAI Reporting Expansion

MDPH is committed to provide HAI measures that are meaningful to the consumer, provide value in quality reporting and when possible reduce the administrative burden for hospitals. To monitor progress toward eliminating HAI, MDPH will continue to require reporting for CLABSI, SSI for abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy procedures, hip and knee arthroplasties, CABG procedures and healthcare personnel influenza vaccination to NHSN. MDPH is expanding the state reporting requirement to include the measures all Massachusetts acute care hospitals participating in the CMS IQR program are currently required to report to NHSN (Table 1). Acute care hospitals will be required to provide MDPH access to the additional measures by October 1, 2014. Hospitals should report retrospective data consistent with the date CMS implemented each healthcare facility HAI reporting requirement. Please see Table 2.

The decision to expand the state reporting requirements was made in consultation with the MDPH HAI Technical Advisory Group.

Implementation of Additional Reporting Requirements

Table 2 (below), describes the expanded requirements and timeline for hospital implementation. The new measures will provide an additional perspective on progress towards HAI elimination.

Although Critical Access Hospitals, Cancer Hospitals and Pediatric Hospitals licensed by MDPH do not participate in the IQR program, as part of the state mandate, these hospitals are required to report the new measures where applicable.

Table 2. 2014 MDPH Expanded HAI Reporting Requirements

HAI Event	Reporting Specifications	Reporting Start Date	Reporting Implementation Date
Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)	Acute Care Hospitals: Adult and Pediatric ICUs	January 2012	November 1, 2014
Surgical Site Infection (SSI)	Acute Care Hospitals: Inpatient Colon Procedures	January 2012	November 1, 2014
Methicillin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA) Bacteremia LabID Event	Acute Care Hospitals: Facility Wide Inpatient	January 2013	November 1, 2014
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> Infection (CDI) LabID Event	Acute Care Hospitals: Facility Wide Inpatient	January 2013	November 1, 2014

All licensed Massachusetts acute care hospitals are successfully reporting specific HAI to MDPH using NHSN. MDPH will notify current NHSN users of the expansion of reporting requirements through features available within the NHSN application.

The MDPH HAI program will continue to assist facilities in reporting HAI data to NHSN and provide guidance as new HAIs are required to be reported. The data will be used to monitor state and national trends over time and to identify areas for improvement. To ensure meaningful state and national comparisons, MDPH will continue to prioritize alignment of state and federal requirements.

Public reporting of HAIs is intended to promote quality improvement, patient safety and transparency in health care settings. Expansion of the reporting requirements demonstrates MDPH’s ongoing commitment to patient safety, and towards the eventual elimination of HAI.

Please forward this circular letter to all persons in your hospital responsible for infection prevention, employee health, and quality management reporting including: Infection Preventionists, Hospital Epidemiologists, Chief Nursing Officers, and Directors of Quality Improvement.

For questions related to the expanded reporting requirement, please contact Eileen McHale. Eileen.mchale@state.ma.us or 617-753-7324.

CC:
 Infection Preventionists
 Cheryl Bartlett, RN, Commissioner
 Alfred DeMaria, MD, Bureau of Infectious Diseases