

October 29, 2012

Dear Hospital Leadership:

This letter is to inform you that select Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) have been added to the list of notifiable diseases in Georgia beginning January 1, 2013 (see Attachment A for list of HAIs and reporting schedule).

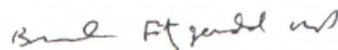
This required reporting applies to acute care hospitals, long-term acute care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and dialysis facilities that participate in the Prospective Payment System (PPS) for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The list of HAIs that must be reported to the Department of Public Health (DPH) aligns with CMS PPS reporting requirements and requires reporting via the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). We will establish a DPH users group within NHSN, and facilities will simply be required to confer NHSN data access rights to the DPH users group. Although CMS does not require critical access hospitals to report HAI data in NHSN, we do encourage critical access hospitals to submit HAI data to the Department of Public Health through NHSN.

All HAI data submitted to DPH will remain confidential in accordance with Georgia law, (O.C.G.A. Sections 31-2-12 and 31-5-5) and facility-level data will not be released.

- To comply with this requirement, facilities must confer NHSN rights to the Department of Public Health for all applicable HAI data by January 31, 2013. The State of Georgia Data Summary Request and Directions to Confer Rights are included as Attachment B.
- In addition, to assist with future HAI data validation efforts, we are requesting that facilities input the Medical Record Number as the Patient Identifier in NHSN. For dialysis centers, we are requesting facilities to input the Crown UPI as the Patient Identifier in NHSN.
- We are also requesting that patient age and gender data fields be entered in NHSN to permit the evaluation of risk factors for infections to support future validation activities.
- We are requesting data for the 2011 NHSN survey, as this is the survey data that will be available as of January 1, 2013. The 2012 survey will not be entered until March 2013.

Should you have any questions regarding the Department of Public Health's HAI Program, please contact Jeanne Negley at 404-657-2593 or jenegley@dhr.state.ga.us.

Sincerely



Brenda Fitzgerald, MD
Commissioner
State Health Officer

Attachments:

- A. List of HAIs and reporting schedule.
- B. SOG Data Summary Request and Directions to Confer Rights

