



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

DEC - 4 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Reporting Infection Prevention and Control Data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Using the National Healthcare Safety Network

The purpose of this memorandum is to implement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) within the Military Health System (MHS). A data use agreement with CDC is now in place, making CDC part of the MHS Quality Assurance Program and allowing the release of military treatment facility (MTF) data into the NHSN. NHSN will allow MTFs to report, aggregate, and analyze infection prevention and control data using the CDC's on-line application. In addition, NHSN will provide enterprise level visibility of healthcare-associated infections (HAI), a capability that currently does not exist.

HAI is an area of great interest to MHS and to our nation as a whole. CDC estimates that HAIs account for 1.7 million infections and 99,000 deaths annually in American hospitals. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality estimates between five and ten percent of all inpatients acquire one or more infections during their stay at an estimated annual cost of \$4.5 billion to \$5.7 billion. Twenty percent of these HAIs are considered preventable.

Initially, eligible DoD facilities will focus on the Device Associated Module of the NHSN, specifically on ventilator-associated pneumonia and central line-associated bloodstream infections in intensive care units. This memo, however, in no way restricts broader NHSN participation by DoD facilities.

The MHS-wide promotion and implementation of the NHSN reporting capability will positively impact the quality of care delivered in our facilities, further demonstrating DoD's strong commitment to safe and effective clinical care. We request the Surgeons General provide assistance to engage the broadest participation possible and the appropriate information technology support to load the user's digital certificate.

All participating DoD facilities must meet the CDC NHSN participation requirements found at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/nhsn_documents.html. In

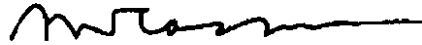
HA POLICY: 08-020

addition, all facilities must join their respective "Service Group" and the DoD "Patient Safety Center Group." The following rights will be conferred to each group to access data at the Service and DoD Patient Safety Center level.

1. Patient identifiable data without identifiers
2. Monthly reporting plan
3. Annual hospital survey
4. Data Analysis
5. Antimicrobial Use and Resistance microbiology laboratory and pharmacy data
6. Plan status (All)
7. All locations, date ranges, procedures and settings, and events

Each Service implemented and used the NHSN in three MTFs by September 30, 2008. The program will now be expanded to the remaining eligible MTFs by March 30, 2009. This policy requires the sharing of DoD quality assurance data with CDC. Please provide this office with a copy of your implementing guidance within 30 days of the date of this policy memorandum.

We highly encourage the Services to embrace the use of NHSN to the fullest extent possible. My point of contact is Colonel John Kugler, who may be reached at (703) 681-0064 or John.Kugler@tma.osd.mil.



S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
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