MEMORANDUM

DATE:     June 10, 2009

TO:       All Hospital CEOs

FROM:     Mary Driscoll, RN, MPH
          Division Chief, Patient Safety and Quality

RE:       Mandated use of the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to comply with reporting of central line-associated bloodstream infection in PICUs and NICUs as mandated by the Hospital Report Card Act (Public Act 93-563)

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Please review and share this document with all persons in your facility responsible for infection prevention and control activities.

Distribution List: Infection Control Committee Chair
                   Infection Prevention and Control Professionals
                   Quality Directors
                   Risk Management Directors

Authority: Public Act 93-563

Background:

PA 93-563 requires that central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) data be collected and reported to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The Public Act also requires that all general acute care hospitals in Illinois submit data using methodology based on a scientifically valid national reporting system. In July 2008, the Department mandated the reporting of CLABSI in the MICU, SICU or combined ICUs using the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [Please see Attachment 1 for the rationale for the decision to use NHSN.] At that time, the Department did not require reporting from the NICU or PICU. All hospitals with an MICU, SICU or combined ICU have successfully enrolled in NHSN.
Mandated Action:
All hospitals with an NICU and/or a PICU must begin reporting CLABSI data from these units no later than October 1, 2009.

Those hospitals currently enrolled in NHSN, with an NICU and/or a PICU, should now modify the NHSN Reporting Plan to include CLABSI infection reporting from these units.

Pediatric hospitals must be enrolled in NHSN no later than August 31, 2009. Attachment 2 summarizes the facility enrollment procedure.

Successful implementation of this reporting system in pediatric hospitals requires that the following five criteria be met:
1) A facility administrator, preferably an infection control practitioner, a hospital epidemiologist or someone familiar with infection control and prevention, must be assigned to enroll your hospital into the NHSN reporting system; the facility administrator does not have to enter the data into NHSN, but they must oversee the process.
2) An infection control practitioner must be assigned to identify CLABSIs and enter this information into the NHSN reporting system;
3) The hospital administrator who has authority to give permission to submit facility data to CDC must return the signed consent to NHSN no later than 60 days after the enrollment process is completed.
4) Administrative support is needed to develop and reliably collect denominator data, reported as central line days. This system should ensure that these data are collected at the same time each day.
5) Information technology (IT) support is needed to install and annually renew the digital certificates needed to enroll in the NHSN reporting system.

Reporting through NHSN will give us quality, accurate, timely data from which we can learn and make appropriate changes to ensure better patient care. We look forward to working together with you through the enrollment and implementation phases. IDPH and CDC will be available to assist your designated Infection Control Practitioner.

cc: Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director, IDPH
    David Carvalho, Deputy Director, OPPS
    Craig Conover, M.D., Director of Infectious Programs, IDPH
    Rich Forshee, Section Chief, Discharge Data
    Illinois Hospital Association
    Metropolitan Chicago Health Care Council
    APIC Chapter Presidents
IDPH Licensing and Certification Division
Hospital Report Card Advisory Committee
Judith Conway, Division of Infectious Diseases
ATTACHMENT 1

Rationale for using the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for reporting central line associated blood stream infection (CLABSI)

1. NHSN uses case definitions and protocols that are recognized nationally and internationally as the standard for CLABSI surveillance.

2. The National Quality Forum has endorsed CDC’s methods for ascertainment of CLABSIs as the standard for obtaining data used for public reporting.

3. NHSN will easily accommodate Public Act 95-0282’s requirement that hospitals must report organisms responsible for CLABSIs to IDPH.

4. NHSN can be used by hospitals and IDPH at no additional cost to taxpayers.

5. NHSN has been successfully adopted by 19 states for public reporting of CLABSIs.

6. The goal of reporting healthcare-associated infections is to prevent infections. NHSN allows real-time feed-back to hospitals, enabling immediate identification of unit-specific trends in CLABSIs and comparison to national benchmarks, to help guide prevention and control measures.
ATTACHMENT 2

Enrollment in the NHSN reporting system

Hospitals should begin enrollment now.

Please follow these steps:
1. Designate a facility administrator who will be responsible for enrolling your facility, will have access to the data, and will be assigned full rights. This person must be an Infection Control Practitioner. Forward this name and contact information to Tracy Morgan at tracy.morgan@illinois.gov.

2. The steps that your designated facility administrator should take to enroll your facility are detailed in the “NHSN Facility Administrator Enrollment Guide” available at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/FacilityAdminEnrollmentGuideCurrent.pdf.

Here is a summary of the steps for facility enrollment:
1. Read the “NHSN Facility Administrator Enrollment Guide” and complete the NHSN training requirements for a facility administrator.
2. Review and accept the NHSN Rules of Behavior.
3. Register for NHSN.
4. After registration, you will receive emailed instructions for applying for a digital certificate.
5. Install the digital certificate on your computer (the digital certificate is person-specific, but it can be installed on more than one computer). You might have to request assistance from your IT department with installing your digital certificate, especially if you do not have administrative rights to your computer. Check with your IT department before installing the digital certificate.
6. Print and complete NHSN enrollment online and submit.
7. You will receive an email confirming enrollment and website consent form.
8. Print the Agreement to Participate and Consent form. This form must be signed by an appropriate hospital administrator (individual who has authority to give permission to submit facility and patient data to the CDC). Return the signed consent form to NHSN by U.S. mail. (Keep an extra copy of the signed consent). Save a copy of your digital certificate on a floppy or thumb drive in case re installation is necessary.
9. NHSN will activate your facility and you will receive an NHSN enrollment email.
10. After enrollment the NHSN facility administrator can access the NHSN application, add users, set up location codes, and enter a monthly reporting plan.

NOTE: You might have to request assistance from your Information Technology (IT) department with enabling the downloading of the certificate, data, and educational materials for compliance with the IDPH directive.

All persons who need access to the data should complete NHSN training requirements. Training requirements and materials can be found on the NHSN website at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/training.html. The NHSN requires that each of its users is thoroughly trained before enrolling in or using the system. The training requirements differ depending on the NHSN user. The NHSN training webcasts can be viewed from any computer and multiple staff can view them at the same time.

After enrolling in NHSN, hospitals must join and confer rights to the Illinois Report Card Act Group (NHSN data group that includes IDPH and Illinois hospitals). This allows hospitals to give NHSN permission to share the CLABSI data with IDPH and fulfill their reporting requirements. Hospitals are not able to see each other’s data; only IDPH can see the CLABSI data from all hospitals. Contact Mary Driscoll at mary.driscoll@illinois.gov for instructions on how to join and confer rights to the Illinois Report Card Act Group.

Please refer administrative enrollment questions to Mary Driscoll at mary.driscoll@illinois.gov. Judy Conway at judith.conway@illinois.gov can assist you with clinical questions regarding definitions, etc.