



DOH 420-274 December 2019

Healthcare-Associated Infection Reporting under 246-440-100 WAC

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the WA State reporting requirements changing?

RCW 43.70.056 states that "The department shall, by rule, delete, add, or modify categories of reporting when the department determines that doing so is necessary to align state reporting with the reporting categories of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services [CMS]." Aligning reporting requirements will simplify reporting for Washington State hospitals.

When will the new reporting requirements go into effect?

The new reporting requirements will go into effect January 1, 2020.

How does this change what I need to report in NHSN?

The following have been added to Washington State healthcare associated infections (HAI) reporting requirements: catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), healthcare personnel influenza vaccination, and Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) LabID have been added to Washington State HAI reporting requirements. The locations required will align with the current (2019) CMS required locations.

So what about healthcare-associated infections for Critical Access Hospitals?

Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) will be required to report healthcare personnel influenza vaccination and the annual facility survey; HAI data (e.g., central line-associated blood stream infections, surgical site infections, C. diff) considered optional by CMS will likewise be optional reporting to WA DOH. Optional reporting is encouraged so that CAH can continue NHSN reporting of all HAI that facilities have identified as significant according to their risk assessment. NHSN HAI tracking is still an important part of infection prevention for CAHs.

Will WA State Department of Health receive the infections if my facility is part of optional reporting?

Yes. WA State Department of Health has entered a data use agreement with NHSN. This data use agreement will allow WA State Department of Health access optional reporting.

How will WA Department of Health use these data?

Data required by state mandate will be used, as it has been in the past, to develop statewide, facility level reports that are published publically. Data collected as a part of optional reporting will not be published publically and will be used in conjunction with required reporting data to implement statewide infection prevention strategies, WA DOH to serve as a resource for hospitals entering NHSN data, assist hospitals with data quality and validation.

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