



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
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CIRCULAR LETTER: DHCQ 09-01-506

TO: CEO, Massachusetts Public Health Hospitals

FROM: Paul Dreyer, Ph.D., Director

DATE: January 26, 2009

SUBJECT: Public Health Hospitals Reporting Requirements

The purpose of this letter is to inform Massachusetts Public Health Hospitals¹ of a requirement for the collection and reporting of selected healthcare-associated infection (HAI) data. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, has requested that the statewide Infection Prevention and Control Program initially implemented for acute care hospitals now be extended to other hospital types including Massachusetts Public Health Hospitals. The requirement includes the following:

1. No later than February 17, 2009 Public Health Hospitals shall register with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Health Safety Network (NHSN).
2. No later than March 1, 2008, Public Health care hospitals shall nominate a facility administrator and subsequently grant access rights on the NHSN system to DPH and BLC. These rights give DPH and BLC access to certain specific healthcare-associated infection measures entered into NHSN and rights to hospital-specific reports generated by NHSN.
3. No later than April 1, 2009, each hospital must collect and submit the specified HAI data elements to NHSN as outlined in the summary (see Attachment 1).

The Executive Office's request continues to fulfill a mandate of the Healthcare Reform Act passed in 2006 that required DPH to create an Infection Prevention and Control Program, of which reporting is a key element. Public reporting is becoming increasingly important in

¹ Public Health Hospitals include the Tewksbury Hospital, Massachusetts Hospital School, Lemuel Shattuck Hospital and Western Massachusetts Hospital.

assuring transparency and accountability. The first priority was to implement the Program in acute care hospitals.

The data elements being requested are revised from the recommendations made by an Expert Panel for acute care hospitals. BLC and DPH representatives met with Public Hospitals Infection Preventionists to develop an implementation strategy and to determine measures which are applicable to each of the four Public Health Hospitals. See Appendix 1 for a list of the data elements.

If you have any questions, please contact
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or Eileen McHale at eileen.mchale@state.ma.us, 617-624-5723.

Thank you for your cooperation.

ATTACHEMENT 1
DATA ELEMENTS

| HOSPITAL | CVC-BSI true path ICU | CVC-BSI skin cont ICU | CVC-BSI outside ICU | VAP | <i>C-difficile</i> Incidence | Influenza Vac employees |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---|--|
| Lemuel Shattuck | √ | √ | √ | | √ | √ |
| Massachusetts Hospital School | | | | | √ | √ |
| Tewksbury | | | √ | | √ | √ |
| Western Massachusetts | | | √ | | √ | √ |