



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

PO BOX 360

TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

www.nj.gov/health

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

HEATHER HOWARD
Commissioner

TO: Health Care Administration Board

THROUGH: Cynthia Kirchner
Senior Policy Advisor to the Commissioner

Emmanuel Noggoh, Director
Health Care Quality Assessment

FROM: Frances Prestianni, Program Manager
Health Care Quality Assessment

SUBJECT: Notice of Proposal for New Rules at N.J.A.C. 8:56, "Health Care Facility Infection Reporting"

At the next meeting of the Health Care Administration Board, the Department will propose for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the Notice of Proposal for new rules at N.J.A.C. 8:56. These rules are required to implement the provisions of N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12.39 through 12.45, the "Health Care Facility-Associated Infection Reporting and Prevention Act." General hospitals will begin reporting on health care facility-associated infections in January 2009 contingent upon adoption of these rules.

The statute requires general hospitals to report on indicators related to healthcare-associated infections (HAI), including measures developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to the Department. The statute requires the Department to report comparative hospital data regarding HAI to the public in the Hospital Performance Report and on the Department's website. Further, the statute requires the Department to develop the reporting system and rules with the advice of the Quality Improvement Advisory Committee (QIAC). The Commissioner may expand the reporting system to other types of health care facilities, as appropriate.

The Department developed the proposed new rules with input from the QIAC and the Technical Work Group for public reporting on infections (Work Group). QIAC is composed of members representing providers, academia, and consumers and advises the Department on a wide range of quality reporting initiatives. The Work Group is composed of hospital infection control staff, infectious disease physicians and QIAC members.

New Jersey is one of several states, which are moving to require public reporting of HAI data. Most of these states are using the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) as the data collection system. The Department also consulted with CDC staff and other states to ensure that the development of the New Jersey infections reporting system followed national standards.

These proposed new rules would establish the broad requirements which general hospitals must fulfill in order to provide HAI information:

- CDC's NHSN is designated as the method of collecting CDC's HAI data. The rules specifically outline the steps which hospitals must complete to collect and submit HAI information to NHSN.
- CMS's Specifications Manual for National Hospital Quality Measures is the framework designated to collect the CMS process quality measures. Hospitals are already submitting this information to the Department for inclusion in the Hospital Performance Report.
- The proposed new rules indicate that the Department will notify hospitals each year of the measures from each of these two data systems which are to be submitted the following year.

NHSN is a confidential surveillance system for collecting information related to HAI. Based on this information, CDC publishes national rates for infections and major analytical studies. CDC itself does not release individual hospital data but provides a mechanism by which states can obtain access to this information with the hospital's permission. While complying with NHSN will require additional hospital efforts, there was general recognition that this system is the national standard for collection of HAI information.

The proposed new rules include the following components:

- Designation of NHSN as the reporting system for the CDC measures.
- Each hospital shall authorize the Department to have access to CDC HAI data without identifying information about patients.
- Each hospital shall enroll in NHSN and comply with all NHSN requirements including training, data collection, and reporting.
- Each hospital shall follow the Department's established procedures for submission of CMS measures related to HAI.
- The Department shall notify hospitals each year about the CDC and CMS measures that are to be submitted the following year.
- Each hospital's chief executive officer shall certify that the hospital has processes in place to ensure accurate submission of CDC HAI data in accordance with NHSN requirements during the current reporting year.
- The Department shall report infections data to the public after determining that appropriate comparisons across hospitals can be made.

Attachment